

AUTHOR SUSAN BRANCH IN HER VINEYARD KITCHEN

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Careful
attention to
design is
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Nantucket
home.

Boundless



Vision



There is something very authentic about the Nantucket summer home of a Midwestern couple who spent more than 30 summers enjoying life on the island before building their dream house. The couple knew exactly what they wanted—from the plants in the garden (they love pale blue hydrangeas) and the requisite water views, to the outdoor sink for filleting the catch of the day, to the size of the kitchen drawers (custom scaled to fit dishtowels folded in a particular way).

"We knew that we loved spending time on Nantucket, and we were committed to finding the right piece of property and the right team to work with," explains the homeowner.

Appropriately named "Boundless Vision," the house is perched on a gentle rise overlooking Nantucket Sound, town,

and, from the widow's walk, the island's three lighthouses. The owners were clear from the start: they wanted a home that felt peaceful and serene and drew from the idyllic natural land- and seascape. They also wanted a home where their guests would feel as comfortable enjoying summer cocktails on the deck as they would settling in for a nap in front of a roaring fire in the fall.

There is never an instant when the owner wavers in her conviction that the finished house turned out just right. While she and her husband were intimately involved in every decision along the way (they sat on every ottoman and poured over hundreds of yarn colors for the custom rugs, she admits), she is quick

BY MARIE-CLAIRE ROCHAT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DURSTON SAYLOR



■ The home's name, Boundless Vision, comes from its beautiful views of the ocean, town, sweeping natural landscape, and Nantucket's three lighthouses.



■ (above) The cozy family room, just off the kitchen, is a popular gathering spot. Fabrics by Pierre Frey and Bergamo play up the room's natural hues. (right) The foyer features a custom-designed rug and wall sconces.

to give her interior design team lots of credit. "We had a dream team. Everything was a collaborative effort."

That team, Dujardin Design Associates, Inc., was brought in during the early stages of the project, a practice which Trudy Dujardin, the firm's president, and Price Connors, its senior designer, stress is a contributing factor to the most successful design schemes.

"We are very familiar with construction practices," explains Dujardin, whose firm is based in Westport, Connecticut, but who works regularly on the island. "A lot of architects and builders like to dovetail with us in the early stages. When we are all sitting there sketching a floor plan and the client says, 'I was hoping for a little reading



■ The floor in the dining room is stenciled with an intricate compass rose design, tying in with the owners' collection of nautical pieces.



■ The living room is anchored by a conversation area with a light sisal rug that emphasizes the room's spaciousness. The owners found the antique ship model on Nantucket.

nitch,' we can just take out the tracing paper and work it into the design. It's really an evolutionary process."

The owners selected their architect by driving around the island until they found a house they liked. They hired Graham Goldsmith, a local architect whose Nantucket-style homes have set a standard in fine, livable design.

From the beginning, it was clear that everything—from the siting of the house to the color scheme—would complement the sweeping water views. There is a graceful flow to the layout of the house, as if the views of the water beckon, evoking an unconfined and unforced sensibility. Passionate collectors of mar-





■ Jerusalem gold limestone countertops reflect the natural light pouring in through a row of windows in the kitchen.

itime antiques and art, the owners wanted their Nantucket retreat to serve as a showcase of the treasures collected from their travels around the world. Walking through this house, one gets the feeling that absolutely nothing is random—that every detail, every painting, every piece of furniture—has been selected with a clear sense of intention.

The two-story foyer opens into the main living and dining area of the home. A 10-foot coffered ceiling and

generously proportioned crown and baseboard moldings lend a traditional elegance. Rounded columns serve to divide the space, creating a sense of two intimate rooms without the boundary of a solid wall. Stenciled onto the floor beneath the round dining table is an intricate compass rose with an unusual *fleur de lis* detail, an image taken from the label of a bottle of cognac the owners once enjoyed during a special meal with friends. This tradi-

tional symbol ties in with the owners' other nautical pieces. A large ship model of the *Dauntless*, purchased at a Nantucket auction house, is a focal point of this room. A collection of paintings by renowned New England marine and landscape artists, including Michael Keane, Frank Corso, Doug Brega, and Len Tantillo, grace the walls throughout the house.

The kitchen is a room where guests are always welcome, says the owner;



■ The Admiral's Room, on the second floor, is furnished with antiques the owners found in Australia.

the adjacent gathering room with its raised brick hearth and cozy, comfortable furnishings adds to the appeal. Connors points out that all of the small appliances are concealed behind paneled cabinets, easily accessible yet out of sight in this carefully edited kitchen. Jerusalem gold limestone countertops reflect the natural light which pours into this room; an antique light fixture is centered over the island.

Like most of the rooms on the first

floor, there is access to the veranda, which stretches along the entire backside of the house. Here, the view can be enjoyed in the fresh air, a gentle sea breeze conveniently maintaining a perfect temperature. With a swing and a table that can seat 10, the gazebo easily accommodates the owners' steady flow of houseguests through the summer and fall. In one corner is the "fish sink." Although they often need to clean their occasional catch—they are

avid boaters and always have their poles ready—the owners admit that more often, they use the sink to clean their two frequently sandy yellow labs.

The den, off the living room, has built-ins for the computer and entertainment systems. As in the rest of the house, the color scheme is tied to the natural surroundings. The walls are covered in a textured paper the color of beach sand, and a blue settee picks up the color of the sea.



■ The master bedroom features accent pieces from the owners' travels.

The owner runs her hand over an Asian antique table in the guest suite, explaining that she felt it worked so well on Nantucket given the island's connection to China during its whaling heyday. The sea-foam green and beige in this room and its adjacent bath mirror the colors of the garden in late summer.

At the top of the stairway, which gracefully curves along a paneled wall, is the "Admiral's Room." This handsome chamber, with strong navy blue walls and cherry trim, is a bit of a

departure (albeit a successful one) from the serene color palette found in the rest of the house. Antiques purchased during a recent trip to Australia, including three ships' logs dating from the mid-19th century, a ship's wheel, and a map tracing the voyage of "Lt. Cooke" (clearly made before his promotion to captain), add to the seafaring theme of this room. French doors open to the small deck with sweeping views, while an even better panorama can be enjoyed from

the widow's walk.

The master bedroom is a warm, sunlit, and soothing space. Accent pieces have been carefully selected and include shells collected from trips to the Bahamas and the Florida Keys, Venetian glass lamps from Italy, and glass pieces by Seattle-based artist Dale Chihuly.

"We are not fussy, flowery types," claims the owner. "We were looking for comfort but without a lot of clutter. All of the accessories have meaning to us and a story behind them."



• The limestone tile floor in the master bath was laid in a diagonal pattern for effect.

The master bath is sizable, with a limestone tile floor laid out in a diagonal pattern—"that took many hours to plan out," says Dujardin—and custom-built cabinetry for the monogrammed towels.

Two additional bedrooms, each with an adjoining bathroom, belong to the owners' grown children. Both rooms have cottage-style bead-board ceilings and have been painted soft, pastel colors.

Houseguests occupy a two-bedroom guest cottage, which also doubles as a garage, for most of the sum-

mer, says the owner. Clearly, much attention has been paid to making this space as welcoming and comfortable as the main house.

Strolling along the well-manicured grounds, the owner reminisces about the moment she and her husband knew they had found their perfect spot. "We had been coming to Nantucket for so many years," she began, "living on our motor yacht in the boat basin, renting houses, staying in B&Bs, and all the time we were looking for land. We knew we loved spending time on the

island. When we saw this land, [my husband] stood here, looked at this view, and said this would be fantastic. He just knew. In a way, this house is a tribute to his boundless vision."

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
SEE MARKETPLACE ON PAGE 97.

Marie-Claire Rochat lives on Nantucket with her husband and two young children. She contributes to several publications around the Cape and Islands and also works as a public relations consultant.