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# Treasure on the Island

by Lisa Clair  
photography by Terry Pommert



Trudy Dujardin, ASID, is known for sophisticated style, elegant use of color and intuitive understanding of her clients' lifestyles. Winner of numerous awards for her work, her interiors have appeared in the most prestigious industry publications. Believing that a healthy home is the ultimate luxury, she is a LEED Accredited Professional. From offices in Nantucket, Mass. and Westport, Connecticut, Dujardin Design Associates creates interiors nationwide.

For award-winning interior designer Trudy Dujardin, every day can feel like a treasure hunt. Constantly on the lookout for beautiful *objets d'art* and one-of-a-kind vintage pieces for her many clients, she has an eye for what makes things special. No wonder then, that a trip to Nantucket to find a summer rental for herself and her husband, Frank Fasanella, resulted instead in buying a dreamy fisherman's cottage in Madaket, with the harbor on one side and the Atlantic ocean on the other. Trudy knew right away that the 2400 square foot home was the Island getaway for which they'd been looking. As president of Dujardin Design Associates, Inc., with offices in both Nantucket and Westport, Connecticut, Trudy was looking for a new place on her long-beloved island where she could relax and recharge.

**FAVORITE THINGS:** Among the treasures scattered in the living room are the Fred Ely basket from the Dane Gallery, the mohair throw from Nantucket Looms, the antique sailor whirligig and the 18th-century Chinese porcelain reflecting the Chinese export trade with Nantucket. Retained wooden beams are highlighted against the newly painted white beadboard ceiling.

**A LITTLE WHITE MAGIC:** Ms. Dujardin brightened the kitchen by painting the existing cherry cabinetry and replacing the orange granite countertops with Vermont Danby Imperial marble. She added bulkhead fixed pendant lights above for nautical flavor.



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After owning multiple Nantucket properties, from cottages and captains' houses in town to a harborside home in Monomoy, she knew it was time to find a simpler way to live. She had never considered Madaket, until the day her realtor brought her to the cottage, and it was love at first sight. She describes Madaket as going back 30 years in time.

"Madaket is one of the best-kept secrets on Nantucket," says Trudy, explaining her love for the western end of the Island. "There's nothing like a Madaket sunset.

**AT THE BAR:** Ms. Dujardin's treasured nest of baskets made by Bill and Judy Sayle of Nantucket. Chinese export porcelain is showcased in the lit cabinets above. The countertop is a rich, burnished cherry.



There are rituals here around the end of the day." Dusk often finds Trudy and Frank with their feet in the sand, a picnic basket open beside them and their three bichon frises happily gamboling near the surf. With an eye for what's beautiful and a heart open to appreciating life's fleeting moments, twilight is the perfect time for Trudy to stop work and relax with her family.

Appreciation for life's treasures is apparent from the moment you walk in the door of this home. Lovingly renovated in Trudy's signature gently green style, the clean air from ocean breezes is exchanged with inside air every 20 minutes in a state-of-the-art ventilation system that lowers the level of VOCs. Water-based, non-toxic paints and stains were used throughout the fresh-feeling rooms; existing cherry



**CUSTOM FIREPLACE:** Designed by Dujardin Design Associates, Inc., it incorporates hand-carved whales created from a beam reclaimed from an old Nantucket building.

**MADE-TO-ORDER:** The dining room features a cherry top buffet, custom-ordered with non-toxic paint and finishes. The ship's lantern above the glass top table is from England; the lightbulbs were made in France.



**A TOUCH OF WHIMSY:** The guest room shows Ms. Dujardin's whimsical side, celebrating days at the beach gone by. Lovingly collected vintage tin sand toys provide a fun counterpoint to the 1920s child's bathing costumer nearby.



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cabinets were repainted white to save on waste, and the rare items that were taken to the landfill, such as orange granite countertops, were quickly whisked away by other treasure hunters. There are antique and vintage gems sprinkled throughout the house, like shells on the beach, another way to reuse favorite things and save treasures from being discarded.

An extremely rare, 19th-century English scrimshaw tortoise shell is displayed above the fireplace; below, the mantel whale carving was done by the late Jack Flandreau, whose work is featured at the Great Harbor Yacht Club. An ardent collector, Trudy's treasures are showcased throughout her home. Also on the mantel are several antique lighting devices that are mysterious to us today, but were once commonly used: a corkscrew pigtail candlestick complete with hook for hanging over a chair, a rush light holder (made in its time by master craftsmen and never mass produced) and antique binoculars, all reminding Trudy and Frank of a simpler, and perhaps "greener," time in history.

Trudy is a constant advocate for "green" education and takes great pleasure in talking to people about alternatives to traditional products and ways to reduce our impact on the environment. To create the weathered, white buffet with cherry top in the dining room, she worked with a small furniture designer in the Carolinas, specifying the precise look she envisioned and insisting on non-toxic finishes. The custom result is now a sought after piece in the manufacturer's catalog, and he has happily embraced the concept of more sustainable manufacturing practices. Trudy shares more of her knowledge through her blog, [holistichouse.com](http://holistichouse.com), and in her role as an adjunct professor of Sustainable Design at Fairfield University.

The made-to-order buffet in the dining room sits below local artist Rose Gonnella's exquisite rendering of a shell and apple still life and has vintage hotel silver sugar shakers on top. Balloon-handled French forks, also vintage hotel silver, are displayed on the glass-topped table nearby. The lantern above the table was inspired by an authentic ship captain's lantern; much of the lighting in the home has a nautical feel. Grounding a home with a sense of place is another passionate pursuit for Trudy, and it shows in every detail.

The marine blue living room, artfully created as a comfortable space for entertaining, was furnished with sofas upholstered in casual-feeling blue twill with contrasting white trim. "Frank wanted a place where he could relax with a beer with his friends," laughs Trudy. "This room is for him. No white sofas here!" The table is home to a classic Fred Ely basket from the Dane Gallery. Carved whales

**NESTLED IN:** The master bedroom is a sun-filled quiet refuge, reflecting the beauty of white sand and blue sky. An antique friendship basket rests on the bedside table.





IN THE LIBRARY: Custom built-ins display Ms. Dujardin's collection of treenware, both contemporary and antique. An 18th-century French sea chest boasts a rare brass inlay.

float on 24k gold pegs; like many of the much-valued pieces throughout the home, this precious museum-quality basket is used and loved daily, rather than gathering dust on a shelf. On a side table, a work by New England marine artist Peter Quidley of a sailboat at rest on the moonlit seas enhances the peaceful feeling of this space. Next to it is an aged sailor boy whirligig, made by Lincoln Ceeley.

A lover of nautical art in many forms, Trudy also collects artwork such as the "Ship of Bengal," an 18th-century British woolie. In mint condition, this piece is unusual for including the ship's identification as part of the design and for its display of the British flag. Below, on an 18th-century campaign chest, is a 19th-century "honors box" where candy was kept, and guests were on their "honor" to take only one piece!



WRITING DESK: Displayed against faux-painted grasscloth walls is a collection of antique photos and watercolors showing the history of Nantucket. Many of the photographs were taken in 'Sconset during theatre productions at the 'Sconset casino.

Every detail has been carefully thought out: French doors open from the living room to a covered porch, the sole addition to the house, but one that Trudy says greatly expanded the space and the joy of summer living. Only steps from the living room bar where drinks are easily refreshed, Trudy reads and naps on her porch, along with her Bichon companion, G.G. Landscape additions designed by Marty McGowan give a settled feel to the property, blending it beautifully into its surroundings.

Custom wood built-ins in the library were designed by Trudy to house her many treasures and her first-edition Nantucket book collection; then she added a bit of playfulness before she was finished. Vintage tin-litho sand toys from the 1920s to the 1950s bring a splash of bright color to a shelf above the bed in a guest room. A child's 1940s bathing costume (never worn and preserved in perfect condition)

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in a Dujardin-designed home ...*

hangs on a wall nearby. No detail is ever overlooked in a Dujardin-designed home: on the bed is a sailor hooked pillow and pillows in a crab and starfish motif. A handmade nautical blue ribbon runs above the beadboard.

In the master bedroom, it is no surprise that the ocean-tumbled tones of seaglass were the inspiration. Thus this gentle room is softly decorated in the palest blues, whites and seafoam greens, a restful haven for Trudy and Frank after a day at the beach. French doors lead to a small balcony where they sip their morning coffee and enjoy a glimpse of Madaket harbor.

The last dramatic change Trudy made was painting the kitchen white. The conversion from dark to light exploded the space visually and brought the feeling of constant sunlight streaming into the room. Although non-toxic, white-washed paints and polished nickel silver fixtures brighten the home's visage, Trudy was careful to leave some knotty pine in place on floors and ceiling beams for her husband. She credits Frank with loving this house for its innate warmth and knowing when to leave certain elements in place.

"I've learned some lessons about life here," she says, "lessons about cottage living on an Island, where less is often more. Frank wanted our vacation home to feel like his den, a place where he can relax and put his feet up. That's the feeling guests say they get when they visit here."

It's a simpler life, she says. As both a longtime resident and visitor to Nantucket, she would know. In Madaket, falling asleep to the sound of the waves, Trudy Dujardin, ASID, LEED AP, is home again on her treasured island.

Porch Pooch: G.G., one of Ms. Dujardin's three bichon frises, relaxes on a teak sofa from Logan Gardens, covered in a Caribbean blue fabric. The antique fisherman's net adds vintage flair; the Madaket sign shows Ms. Dujardin's homes in Connecticut and Nantucket.

