

Views³

From sailboat races to seabird watching, the owners of a home at the edge of a Rhode Island peninsula never get bored.

Text by BOB CURLEY | *Photography by* READ MCKENDREE



The front of the house is a master class in symmetry, a reimagined English country home with Gothic influences and fine stonework informed by the expertise of the homeowner, a geologist.



ABOVE: Two wings of the house frame the formal courtyard garden; the entry archway is carved from a single slab of granite. **BELOW:** Bluestone tiles flow from the courtyard through the steel-framed glass entry and into the foyer, where an antique console table makes a statement. **FACING PAGE:** Sherwin-Williams Mediterranean and a Phillip Jeffries grasscloth on the coffered ceiling give the study a dash of formality without stuffiness.

If you have a waterfront home, you typically get a beautiful view. When you build a 16,000-square-foot house on a peninsula extending into the waters of Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay, you get three.

When architect Greg Snider stood on the site of what had previously been an oyster farm, he was captivated by the triptych in front of him: a classic New England seaside town to the left, an iconic suspension bridge straight ahead,





and the islands and open water of the bay to the right.

To take full advantage of the vistas, “I basically designed three homes facing three directions,” says Snider. He further enhanced the half-hexagonal aspect by lowering the grade around the home and motor court, which allowed for twelve-

foot-tall windows that adhere to the community’s roof-height restrictions.

Snider calls the seaside estate “a modern home treated in a traditional way,” and that’s most evident when approaching the front door through a courtyard garden designed by landscape architect Kate Field. There’s more



The owners are avid cooks, as evidenced by the dual-oven Wolf range under the French country cast-stone hood flanked by hand-painted cabinetry. The backsplash was created from reclaimed antique tile. **FACING PAGE:** An America’s Cup yacht, the whaler *Charles W. Morgan*, and the owners’ yacht are among the vessels plying the waters of Nantucket Harbor in the dining room mural hand-painted by Segreto Finishes.

“I basically designed three homes facing three directions.”

—ARCHITECT
GREG SNIDER



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Although not adjacent to the kitchen, the indoor patio is a favored dining spot for informal meals with a symphony of waves, boats, and seabirds as background. Hand-painted fish swim across the walls of the powder room. In the living room, intimate seating around a mohair ottoman invites after-dinner cocktails or cozying up with a book in front of the fireplace. **FACING PAGE:** Ann-Morris holophane-glass lights and saloon-style stools surround the prow of the kitchen island. Recessed lighting fixtures are hand-painted to match the reclaimed barnwood ceiling.



A trio of sepia-toned waterscapes hangs in a guest bedroom. **FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Interesting angles in this upstairs bath invited creativity: the subdued floral wallpaper takes the place of what otherwise would have been a “boring” paint job on the sloped ceiling, says interior designer Sarah Eilers. An English bamboo dresser adorned with decoupage fish furthers the country-manor-meets-sea-captain-quarters vibe. Washable marigold-patterned wallpaper and Dunes and Duchess Cupcake sconces bring charm to the guest bath. Yellow and blue Penny Morrison linens inspired a guest bedroom’s overall color scheme.

than a hint of formality in the carved granite archway bending over the entry, and the gabled roof sheeted in slate tile gives the impression of an English manor home, albeit one with sharp Gothic peaks.

The perfectly symmetrical layout nods to the owners’ passion for precision, but once you pass through the modern glass door, “it gets eclectic fast,” says Snider.

A small foyer quickly yields to the trio of linked, high-ceilinged ocean-

facing rooms: kitchen, living room, and an enclosed patio with NanaWalls that can be sealed shut or opened to the elements depending on the weather.

Interior designer Sarah Eilers’s “timeless transitional” aesthetic is most apparent in the kitchen, which nods to the French rather than English countryside while subtly sprinkling in nautical references like a central island shaped to resemble a ship’s wheelhouse.

The living room is the owners’ favored vantage point for watching



Eilers painted the ceiling in the primary bath for a splash of glam. **FACING PAGE:** A quartet of custom bunk beds framed in shiplap are a popular hideout for the owners' grandchildren—though some adult visitors also have enjoyed bunking out in here.

A bayside in-ground pool is adjacent to an outdoor kitchen designed by landscape architect Kate Field. One of several specimen trees preserved during construction shades the yard.

evening sailboat races on the bay, but you don't even need to look outside to see boats in the dining room: they're painted right on the walls (including the owners' own boat) in a four-wall mural depicting Nantucket Harbor. The room is perhaps the best synthesis of the talents of Eilers, Snider, and builder Maxx Heerlein of Kirby Perkins Construction, with the mural blending seamlessly into a painted groin-vault ceiling, which in turn nods to the arched walls and windows.

Beneath this ocean of blue sits a comparatively understated dining set and rug in shades of blue, ochre, and coral, comfortably complementing—but not competing with—the visual landscape. “The owners wanted a formal dining room that people wouldn't be afraid to sit down in,” says Eilers.

Eilers spent three years working with the owners to gather art and antiques to fill the home; rustic elements like the reclaimed barnwood used in the kitchen ceiling add to the sense of warmth and livability that permeates the house.

Barring rising sea levels or other catastrophe, “this is a 500-year house,” says Heerlein, pointing to the quality of materials and skill that went into its design and construction. For the owners, however, the comfort and serenity of the home remains its timeless appeal.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE: Gregory J. Snider Architects

INTERIOR DESIGN: Lucas/Eilers Design Associates

BUILDER: Kirby Perkins Construction

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Katherine Field and Associates

