

# Greener Pastures

The interior inspiration is comfortable and modern with a nod to the rustic roots of the land. Opposite page: Each room showcases a careful, cohesive selection of modern art.

Designer Audrey  
Sterk dreams up an  
elegant getaway for  
a Nantucket home  
on former farmlands.

By Madeline Bilis  
Photographed by Read  
McKendree/JBSA





The palette of oak, charcoal, blues and creams provides a fluid transition between each room, as seen in the living room and dining room.

**B**ack in the 1850s, more than 100 farms dotted the island of Nantucket. These days, less than 20 farms remain, but the island's agricultural history remains an important part of its heritage. So, when designer Audrey Sterk was tasked with creating a breezy escape from a home situated on what were once pastures and farmland, she took cues from the historical landscape—and the personal history of the owners.

The idea was to take the homeowner's existing home and turn it into an





Clockwise from top: The pendant light, designed by Bertjan Pot for Moooi, is a marker of the classic modern design throughout the home; the kitchen features custom cabinets from Empire Builders; decor in the kitchen is from Pottery Barn, West Elm and Design Within Reach.



elegant place to recharge. The “inspiration was a comfortable, modern aesthetic with a nod to the rustic roots of the land,” Sterk says.

To achieve that, Sterk selected a palette of oak,

charcoal, blues and creams; she says a scaled-back approach to the colorways is meant to provide a fluid transition between each room. This is evident in the main living area, where armchairs, benches and



Small ceramic sculptures on the wall add whimsy and texture.

sofas range in color from dusty blue to cream. Above them, a black, netlike pendant light, designed by Bertjan Pot for Moooi, is a marker of the classic modern design throughout the home. “When it’s illuminated at night, the pattern is pretty special,” Sterk says of the stringy shadows the lamp casts throughout the room.

A smattering of impactful design decisions punch up the home’s breeziness, like the charcoal-colored Moroccan zellige tiles in the powder room. There, Sterk explains she

Each room has artwork such as oil paintings, photography and other mediums.

“EVERY PROJECT HAS A PERSONALITY AND A STORY TO TELL AS UNIQUE AS THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE HOMES.”

-AUDREY STERK



leaned into the drama of the slightly imperfect tiles to make the space feel cozy and moody. A window beside the sink ups the ante, as sunlight streams in and grazes the texture of the tiles. “The surface ever so slightly undulates,” Sterk says. “And it casts this pretty dance of light across it.”

Smaller touches make a big impact too. Along the home’s main staircase, tiny ceramic sculptures add whimsical detail to an otherwise blank wall. The thinking was to not only give the wall texture, but



From left: Sunlight streams in the breezy bathroom; charcoal-colored Moroccan zellige tiles in the powder room make the space feel cozy and moody.



to give a cadence to the journey up the stairs. Sterk says she rejected the idea of having too much imagery in the open stairwell, as well as the rigidity that a series of rectangular picture frames would lend to the space. Instead, the sculptures are laid out in a more organic flow, much like the grasses surrounding the property.

What unites each room is a careful, cohesive selection of modern art, from the large-scale piece by Joanna Kane in the

entryway to the more ethereal painting by Julija Mostykanova in the sitting room. The art became a way to merge the home's rustic farmhouse elements with its more classic, modern design: "We really tried to capture the homeowners'

personalities," Sterk explains. Oil paintings, photography, glasswork and other mediums are found in each room, much of it sourced from local artists and The Gallery at Four India Street in downtown Nantucket. Says Sterk, "We really try to interpret them—who they are, what their loves are—in the final expression of the interior." ■



# DESIGN DETAILS

**TYPE:**  
Single-family home

**LOCATION:**  
Nantucket

**INTERIOR DESIGN:**  
Audrey Sterk Design  
audreysterk.com

**ARCHITECT**  
Emertius  
emeritusltd.com

**BUILDER**  
Empire Builders  
@empire\_builders\_inc

**STYLIST**  
Frances Bailey  
francesbailey.com



From left: Sterk took cues from Nantucket's historical landscape when designing the home; much of the art was sourced from local artists and The Gallery at Four India Street in downtown Nantucket.



## RESOURCES

### DESIGN WITHIN REACH

Lighting; dressers;  
kitchenware; sofas, couches  
and sectionals; accent tables  
dwr.com

### NANTUCKET HOUSEFITTERS

Curtains and blinds  
housefitters.com

### PALECEK

Sofas, couches and sectionals;  
accent tables  
palecek.com

### RESTORATION HARDWARE

Beds and dressers; sofas,  
couches and sectionals; accent  
tables  
rh.com