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Real Estate Guide

MARTHA'S VINEYARD



Photos by Bob Gothard

COVER FEATURE

Vineyard Haven waterfront with private beach. See page 4.



Photo by Vineyard Colors







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Vineyard Haven Waterfront with Private Beach

This beautifully proportioned home with views across the harbor to East Chop Lighthouse and Nantucket Sound is nestled on just over an acre of land. Architect Patrick Ahearn designed a stylish and inviting house that can hum with the activities of several generations or provide a tranquil space for a couple.

Originally part of the Darlington estate, a small cottage at this site was torn down for the new home. In an interesting Vineyard twist, 20-some years before the homeowners selected Patrick Ahearn as their architect, Patrick and his wife had rented the cottage. Much later in

a chance meeting on a Cape Air flight to the Vineyard, the owner described the location of the home he was planning to build and Patrick said, "I know that house."

He designed it to work with the gently rolling lawn that slopes down to the sandy beach. His approach was to allow rooms on the first level to each step down a bit to accommodate the contour of the land so the rooms flow harmoniously, all with a view to the water.

The home's easygoing charm is reflected in the tongue and groove paneling and oak flooring that gives it a casual cottage feeling where nothing competes with the view. The

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open design allows all the main living spaces to overlook the lawn and harbor.

Both the living room and dining room feature custom built bookcases and fireplaces and have their own screen porches. Reached through French doors, the living room porch spans the back of the house and is the perfect space for conversation and cocktails. The state-of-the-art kitchen with granite countertops offers casual seating at the breakfast island.

Beyond the kitchen are a half bath and single car garage that can be converted into additional living space. In the rear is a private suite with bedroom, sitting room and full bath that is now used as an office.

The spacious second floor master suite is a casual refuge for relaxing. It has its own private balcony, woodburning fireplace and a large sitting area. A luxurious bathroom with a soaking tub, separate shower and double sinks and a walk-in closet complete the space. Two additional bedrooms, one with water views, share a hall bathroom that can also be accessed directly by one bedroom.

The lower level with its own water view is a wonderful retreat with a carpeted family room, half bath, laundry area, cedar closet, wine storage and an unfinished exercise area. A private patio is just outside the door and the outdoor shower is around the corner.

“We loved the property and house we built from the start,” the owner says. “So much so that we had our wedding there when the sod was just laid the day before. All 14 grandkids from our blended families were in the wedding and one of our fondest memories is them playing around the yard in their white wedding clothes during the reception. It was the perfect setting for that special event.”

With indoor and outdoor living areas on multiple levels, family and friends can relax at the house, spill out onto the lawn, or enjoy the beach.

“Our family has passed many a summer day enjoying the breathtaking view of a peaceful harbor filled with the white sails of the boats of friends and neighbors and the yacht club next door,” the owner says. “We recall many happy times cooking the day’s clam catch in the kitchen near the fireplace that always provided a glow to the scene.”

Plans are available for a two-bedroom, one-bath carriage house with a two-car garage and there is ample room for a pool on the grounds.

“It lives as an open and airy, flowing house that doesn’t block the view of the house behind it,” Patrick says. “It’s a special property, a hidden jewel, a happy house.” ♦





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