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# cottage STYLE

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Spring/Summer  
2021



# vintage *refresh*

Thanks to a thoughtful renovation, timeless interior design, and a smattering of family heirlooms, a circa 1870s New England farmhouse has never looked better.

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*This photo and opposite:*  
Located just outside the  
newly designed cabana,  
the sunny porch is always  
ready for poolside happy  
hours with comfortable-  
yet-chic woven wicker  
furniture and a teak table  
topped with succulents.







*Opposite:* A Vittorio Splenda print of a pelican (curated by Kravet) rests atop the intricately inlaid antique console in the entry. *Left:* Thanks to an abundance of openings in the dining room, guests reap the benefits of dining alfresco without the bug bites. *Below:* Designer Jocelyn Chiappone lit the living room with brass sconces, a dramatic pendant, and lamps. A custom built-in displays treasures from far and wide.

Sometimes, with age comes wisdom; other times, it brings a series of questionable facelifts. The Josiah Nickerson House, a circa 1870s Greek Revival located in Chatham, Massachusetts, came with both—plenty of old-world charm and a series of confusing additions. So when a Washington, D.C., couple snapped up the home a few years ago, they looked to Boston architect Patrick Ahearn to remove the grim and restore the great. “It was basically a tenement—there were all these multigenerational additions that compromised its character,” Ahearn says. “We had to get past all that and reimagine the farmhouse for a family of four.”

In the planning phase of the design, Ahearn looked to the past. He studied old photos of the property, met with the local historical society, and considered the challenging topography to come up with a timeless update. From there, he and builder Doug Whitla spent the next year razing the old then raising the new—literally. The entire house was elevated in order to carve out a lower level. They also created a back extension, added a new wing to the right of the newly situated front door, and





used the site's steep grade to nestle in a ground-level carriage house with a cabana above it that's accessible to the higher-grade pool. "I'm most proud of the way we dealt with the topography," Ahearn says. "We really created structures that look perfect in the landscape."

Once construction was final, it was time for Rhode Island-based designer Jocelyn Chiappone to map out interiors that give equal consideration to the property's past and the young family's present-day living and entertaining needs. "Our goal was to honor the traditional, historical elements of the house while achieving an airy and casual aesthetic," she says. "Above all, it's a retreat—a space to kick off your shoes, relax, and unwind."

Inspired by the coastal surroundings, Chiappone chose a light and bright palette, with accents of deep,

*Above:* A mix of materials—honed Carrara marble for the island, Jet Mist granite for the perimeter and backsplash, and unlacquered brass lighting, sink fixtures, and hardware—deliver old-house character within a new kitchen framework. *Left:* The master retreat's soft gray palette and abundance of texture make it the perfect place to recharge. *Opposite:* Painted beams and shiplap walls set the stage for a comfortable hangout room.





*Above:* In one daughter's bedroom, built-in bookcases are painted Benjamin Moore Hale Navy to complement the bedding and the home's overall blue-and-white scheme.

*Right:* Milky sconces and Carrara marble pop against the graphic wallpaper in the powder room.

*Opposite:* In another daughter's bedroom, Chiappone set a lively tone from the ground up with a colorful rug, vintage beds, and a statement chandelier that draws the eye toward the tall, vaulted ceilings.

dramatic blue. She upholstered furniture in neutral, high-performance fabrics—making them much more inviting for playdates and happy hours alike. In order to achieve a curated-over-time feel, she layered in some of her client's favorite antiques, carefully arranged various collections in built-in cabinets and bookcases, and installed compelling artwork and dramatic lighting throughout the home.

Thanks to the team's unified vision and attention to detail, no one would ever guess that about 90 percent of the classic cottage is brand-new—both inside and out. Even the architect himself got duped. "I drove right past it not long ago," Ahearn says. "This is a house I designed, and I just forgot! It looks like it's an original antique house that's been lovingly restored." □

*For resources, see page 95.*





