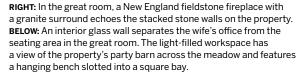


H&T GOOD BONES

rchitect Patrick
Ahearn is a celebrated classicist
known for timeless, coastalinspired dwellings. But his past tells
a different story: he was trained
as a modernist under Walter
Gropius at the storied Cambridge,
Massachusetts-based firm The
Architects Collaborative. So when
potential clients proposed he
design a modern family homestead
on ten-plus acres of undeveloped
farmland on Martha's Vineyard,







H&T GOOD BONES

he replied, "Let's give it a shot." The result is a home that melds storybook-style silhouettes with Machine Age edge.

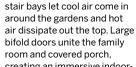
The central portion of the house is modeled on a cottage one might find in the Black Forest, complete with

steeply pitched roofs. Throughout, black windows with delicate muntins feel reminiscent of industrial metalwork, while chevron shutters are decidedly Old World. The white stucco-like facade and tall chamfered chimneys reference modern homes in Belgium



and France. "My goal was to still create a romantic house, but with indoor-out-door living and lots of glass to capitalize on distant water views," Ahearn says.

Gabled roof towers, connected to the central cottage by one-story passageways, each boast a blackened-steel stairway encased in a glass bay. Here, at the ends of the house, is where Ahearn flexes his modernist muscle. "The central portion



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Operable windows in the

creating an immersive indooroutdoor experience. The window by the kitchen's back counter folds away to make alfresco dining easy.





could be an original structure and these flat-roofed connectors with Bauhaus flavor were maybe added later," he says.

Entry is into a voluminous great room with a seventeen-foot-high vaulted ceiling, a two-story fieldstone fireplace, Douglas fir post-and-beam detailing, and dormers that act as clerestory windows, imbuing the space with sunlight. Nature beckons at every turn. "Walls of windows fold away, opening rooms to each other

and the exterior deck for true indooroutdoor connections," Ahearn says.

For instance, bifold doors and windows unite the great room with the back deck, which overlooks Vineyard Sound. The family room opens to the back deck, too, as well as to a covered porch with motorized drop-down screens. Just beyond, granite stairs descend to a lawn, outdoor shower, and the gardenlevel patio.

"We spent a lot of time talking with the clients to get a meeting of the minds," Ahearn says. "We dreamed this up together."

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE: Patrick Ahearn Architect
BUILDER: Rosbeck Builders
LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Dan Gordon Landscape
Architects