



TIMELESS BY DESIGN

Classic design meets modern vibrance in an
Edgartown summer estate.

*Architect Patrick Ahearn Architect / Interior Designer Trellis Home Design / Builder Autumn Construction / Landscape Donaroma's
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Once a thriving whaling port founded by prosperous sea captains, Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard remains a living homage to its seafaring roots, where history is reflected in every clapboard, shutter, and shoreline. Within this protected enclave, newly built homes are held to a high standard—requiring a sensitivity to the past while embracing the comforts of the present. Famed for his ability to merge both, architect Patrick Ahearn designed a new estate for a longtime Edgartown family, channeling his signature style of “implied history” to craft a residence that feels deeply rooted in its surroundings.

“The goal was for this house to feel like it had been here since the 1860s,” Ahearn shares. “We designed it as if it had been passed down through a sea captain’s family, with additions made over time.” The architectural detailing supports this narrative: weathered gray shingles, Greek Revival corner boards, Essex green shutters and doors, and multi-light windows all speak to the past. Proportion was key, with dormers and chimney heights tailored to resemble those of a classic captain’s house. “The objective was always to create something that felt like it belonged,” he says.



The home replaces a 1950s board-and-batten ranch—an architectural outlier on this historic street. With a generous lot size rare for the area, Ahearn’s vision expanded to include not only the new main residence, but also a guest house, pool, and a versatile carriage house. “The carriage house was a critical piece,” he explains. “We wanted it to serve multiple functions without overwhelming the site, so tucking it out of view from the street was essential.” Inside, it includes a three-car garage with custom cabinetry for classic cars, as well as a cabana space that opens directly to the pool with a half-bath, changing room, and under-counter refrigeration.

Within the main home, a welcoming living room with a fireplace sets the tone, leading into an open-concept kitchen, breakfast nook, and dining space with french doors that open to a rear patio space ideal for alfresco dining and outdoor

entertainment. At the far end of the property, the guest house anchors the estate, reinforcing the idea of a layered, unfolding experience as one moves through the grounds.

While Ahearn focused on form and function, designer Allison Mattison of Trellis Home led the charge on interiors, working closely with the homeowners to ensure that the design reflected their traditional tastes with a touch of flair. “These clients lean more traditional in style, and they’ve decorated several homes before,” Mattison explains. “They wanted this one to feel vibrant and special.” A refined palette of red and blue threads through the home, enhanced by nautical nods and clever touches—a ship’s porthole-turned-coffee table, a scrimshaw display beneath glass, and rich materials like lacquer and linen.







"I spend a lot of time on Martha's Vineyard, so I have a special place in my heart for classic New England architecture," Mattison shares. "In this house, I wanted to honor that timeless feeling, but with a fresh perspective." This spirit of balance defines the interiors—bold lacquered surfaces meet hand-finished wood, and classic millwork is enlivened with unexpected textures and hues. Thoughtful contrasts—such as the interplay of vibrant colors and intricate millwork—highlights the depth and detail of Ahearn's traditional architecture.

Mattison notes that every space was thoughtfully personalized. A red lacquered bar off the dining room and a cobalt blue library offer dramatic moments, while upstairs bedrooms were designed to reflect the personalities of their inhabitants: from a hydrangea-inspired blue-and-white guest suite to a lively pink and orange room, and a playful children's retreat in red, white, and blue. "We wanted each bedroom to have its own personality," says Trellis.

Throughout the home, elements such as aged wood, historically appropriate hardware, and oversized stair newel

posts were incorporated to enhance the authenticity of the space. Reclaimed brick and hand-finished materials further contribute to the sense of age and character.

Seamless indoor-outdoor living was also a top priority. "The clients really wanted a seamless flow between inside and outside," Ahearn says. French doors from the kitchen, dining, and gathering rooms open to a spacious covered porch that overlooks the pool—an outdoor oasis framed by a privet hedge for privacy. The flow of the property is deliberate and graceful: from carriage house to pool and cabana, through a garden arbor to a vegetable garden, and finally to the guest house beyond.

In the end, this Edgartown estate stands as a masterful blend of history and innovation, tradition and comfort. With layered architecture, richly appointed interiors, and thoughtful nods to the seafaring past, it captures the spirit of the Vineyard—timeless, welcoming, and ever-evolving. 🏡

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