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HOME

*Designer Lori Deeds
reinvents a summer residence
for a young family in the
Cape Cod town of
Chatham with classic materials
and a bit of whimsy*

AGAIN

BY PATRICIA SHANNON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAUREY W. GLENN



The exterior is outfitted with shutters and doors painted Benjamin Moore Black Forest Green (HC-187), a shade that feels right at home with classic materials like cedar shingles, brick, and bluestone.

STYLING: FRANCES BAILEY

A house that receives both sunrise and sunset views necessitates outdoor living spaces. Carved into the U-shaped house is a dining patio that allows for simple entertaining. "It's all about the view and being with friends and throwing on a tablecloth and whatever flowers are in bloom," designer Lori Deeds says.



Some things are worth keeping in the family, but knowing when it's time to start fresh is a gift to be cherished, too. After a Chatham, Massachusetts, property was passed from parents to son, it was time to overhaul the circa-1950s house to suit the new homeowner and his three young daughters. The logistics of the project would entail tearing down nearly the entire house to create a new structure in the same curved footprint as the original. But creating an interior that could act as a backdrop for a new generation of memories? That was something more. Here the design would need to orbit around a lifestyle where days are spent on the water and nothing—especially the girls' dreamy bunk room—is meant to be too serious. Palm Beach-based designer Lori Deeds of Kemble Interiors and architect Patrick Ahearn were up for the task. Reimagining the property from the ground up would take a dose of creativity, a knack for honoring regional design, and a breadth of knowledge in how to give a new build the kind of heartbeat that's worth passing down. Livable, summery in palette, and nothing too precious were the requirements, and Deeds ran with them. She called on a variety of local materials and styles inherent to the region—shiplap, beadboard, classic striped prints. A palette showcases white with various shades of blue, flipped with pops of greens and yellows. Throughout the design, Deeds sprinkled in whimsical touches like carved wood oyster shells on the dining room console and a crystal chandelier that echoes the bivalve motif. “[With] a summer home, you get a hall pass to have more fun and keep it more playful,” she says. Vintage rattan; sisal, cotton, and wool rugs; and white walls that draw the eye to the ocean views set the stage for a home that's primed for summer living and making memories for a new generation. “It's a place where they can drive in, leave their doors open with a magnificent breeze through the house,” Deeds says. “It's beautiful.”



THE NOOK

“I think the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the Cape is blue and white,” says Deeds. “Of course I wanted to have that classic palette, but I also wanted to have fun with it.” A tucked-away corner off the main living space introduces the traditional hues from the start with Pindler Mercer Stripe in Indigo upholstery. “Anytime I can grab a cozy corner and build a banquette into it,” Deeds says, “I take it and run with it.”



THE DINING ROOM

The dining room was given license to make a splash. Deeds admits the black dining table (Table Misaine by Liaigre) might be an unexpected choice for Cape Cod, but it provides the perfect grounding element when paired with the cloud-like design of the silk wallcovering, Lava by Fromental. The crystal chandelier by John Pomp—called “Ostrea” after a genus of oyster of the same name—is a magical touch that brings the ocean front and center. “At night it's like glowing oyster shells,” Deeds says. A mix of vintage Mexican side chairs, upholstered host chairs, and a bench ensure there's enough seating for dinner parties.

THE LIVING ROOM

The family's main living space came with a roomy-yet-still-cozy footprint, which is why going for a dramatic natural stone fireplace might have been a gamble for some. For Deeds, it was a requirement. “Because the fireplace goes all the way to the ceiling, it actually makes the space feel bigger,” she explains. No stone went unturned—the designer selected the scale and color of every rock in the feature. “The goal was for it to look like it had always been there,” she says, “like we built around it.” Nooks built into either side of the fireplace hold books and treasures the girls pick up on their seaside walks. The French vintage tapestry, a treasure from the client's own collection, dictated the vibrant blue palette in the space.





THE DEN

Amping up the cozy factor in the den that serves as a family hangout meant wrapping the walls and ceiling in grass cloth. "I love a good wallpapered ceiling to complete a room," says Deeds. "You'll rarely see a plain white ceiling in my design." A large custom sectional by Grafton upholstered in Pierre Frey linen Shabby fabric is big enough for the whole family to cuddle up. Never one to let a nook go unnoticed, the designer carved out a window seat made for taking in the scenery, with bonus storage drawers underneath. "Again, it's about the view—even being a TV space."



THE KITCHEN

"This is the most wonderful open space," says Deeds. A traditional blue-and-white scheme (cabinets in Farrow & Ball Parma Gray No. 27) that the designer calls both "friendly" and "classic," paired with unlacquered brass hardware that will patina over time, creates a kitchen that feels "like it's been there for a long time." The banquette effortlessly integrates into the island to create an informal dining area for the family that doesn't monopolize too much floor space. Fun details like a custom tile backsplash, wavy pendant light fixtures (Camila Pendant by Weplight for Bruck Lighting), and the same rustic, reclaimed ceiling beams found throughout the main living space artfully blend old world with new.

THE GUEST BEDROOM

"I think we had to shake things up a little bit with the pattern of the walls paneled in a chevron design. The pattern added a dose of the unexpected while still utilizing a traditional material found throughout the home, thereby maintaining a cohesive look. Graphic Nellcote draperies by Schuyler Samperton Textiles frame the French doors, enriching the primarily blue-and-white palette with shades of persimmon, apricot, and yellow. Just to the left of the French doors is a tidy jib door that expertly sneaks some storage into the space without distracting from the room's treasured view.



THE OFFICE

The wood-paneled office was the only original portion of the house that remained after the renovation. To give the room new life as a space that would function as both an entertaining zone and an office, Deeds lacquered the room in a custom color. The process, which took weeks of prepping, sanding, spraying, and repeating, was a commitment of both time and patience. But it was well worth the effort, says Deeds. "A lot of people use high-gloss paint or finishing plaster to get the look, but we did the real thing here: a true lacquer finish." To contrast the high sheen, the designer installed Phillip Jeffries raffia between each of the ceiling beams.



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—DESIGNER LORI DEEDS



THE BUNK ROOM

Deeds wanted to stray from the pinks that might be expected in a room shared by three girls. Instead, she created a palette of sand and cream. "It's a neutral, beachy room with accents of pink and blue, which I thought was so fun for three growing girls," says Deeds. Brunschwig & Fils Les Touches covers the walls and ceiling to create a cozy, tented feel. The designer used the same fabric on the Roman shade and window seat with pink piping to set it off. Tucked into the peak of the ceiling is a globe fixture by Stray Dog Designs. "It's airy and lightweight, and I just love that it's papier-mâché—that makes it playful."

THE TWIN ROOM

A tiny room at the end of the hallway provides overflow for guests while still feeling intentional and elevated. Pecky cypress walls, a set of Harriett Spindle Beds from The Beautiful Bed Co., and a papier-mâché Tulip side table by Stray Dog Designs lend a crafty style that feels right at home on the New England coast. "It makes me think of the Cape and Chatham and that whole area that I love so much," Deeds says.





THE PRIMARY BEDROOM
The primary suite became a master class in adding interest and layers to an all-white design. “I wanted to keep the majority of the palette cream and white so you see those sweeping views of the bay,” Deeds says. To meet the challenge of creating a dimensional space with a pared-down color scheme, she called on a cream, textured woven wallpaper balanced by a wood-paneled ceiling painted Benjamin Moore Cloud White (OC-130). The furnishings each add a tactile element: a custom rope bed by Christian Astuguevieille, a plaster chandelier, and midcentury chairs in an ivory bouclé.



“THIS IS A HOME THAT LOOKS LIKE IT’S ALWAYS BEEN THERE. THAT’S THE JOY AND PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH [ARCHITECT] PATRICK AHEARN, WHO IS SO WELL VERSED IN CHATHAM ARCHITECTURE”
—LORI DEEDS