



snug by the sea

Nautical flavor buoys up an antique
Cape Cod-style house in Maine

Written by **TINA CASSIDY**

Photography by **ERIC ROTH**

Interior Design by **DEBORAH FARRAND**

COZY RETREAT when a storm rolls down the coast, the living room features slipcovered sofas and chairs clustered near the hearth, and antique pine paneling and ceiling timbers. The nautical theme is spelled out with brass harlocks and an antique tiller along the fireplace, and marine oil paintings and yacht club burgees on the walls.



UPGRADING FROM cramped cabin class, the owners combine five small rooms into an open kitchen (ABOVE) and sitting area around an original brick fireplace (LEFT). Navy and white fabrics on sofas and chairs maintain the nautical vocabulary. Weathered timbers overhead parallel the wide-board pine floors, warmed by a bound sisal area rug.



THE KITCHEN'S HUB is a marble-topped island trimmed with antique wood and turned legs (LEFT); the tall "pantry" is actually the refrigerator, disguised with cabinet-matching panels. Cabinets on the exterior wall hug the slanted ceiling, evoking the cabin of a boat. A bright spot for afternoon tea (ABOVE) is tucked against the sitting area wall.

POSSESSED OF HISTORICAL CHARACTER AND A spectacular location on a precipice overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the house in Maine was irresistible to a couple with school-age children and a love of the sea. A century old, the house was large enough to accommodate their family and friends during extended visits from their year-round home in southern New England. It was calling out to be saved from time and the elements. And so they bought the antique Cape Cod-style house three years ago, and immediately immersed themselves in a painstaking renovation, which involved everything from removing remnants of mid-century fixes to shoring up the foundation and updating the wiring.

Although they were serious about restoring the original nature of the house, the owners did make some changes to the layout to address the lifestyle of an active family—most notably, consolidating five small rooms into one big kitchen/sitting area whose focal point is an original brick fireplace, ideal for taking the seaside chill out of the air. And they crafted a mix of old and subtly "aged" new elements throughout the six-bed-

room, four-bath house. There are no plain drywall surfaces, for example: Most of the walls—ceilings and floors, too—are finished with antique wood, much of it salvaged from other old houses in the state. All the lighting is antique, collected over the years by the owners. In the kitchen, the new cabinetry evokes old-fashioned style with simple panel doors, while the sink faucets and fittings are period reproductions.

As the renovation neared completion, the homeowners met with interior designer Deborah Farrand and shared their vision. "They wanted a house that said 'nautical style,' and was comfortable and durable, too," says Farrand, owner of Dressing Rooms, in Westford, Massachusetts. The couple also brought to the project an array of antiques—pine tables, banister-back chairs, glass doorknobs—as well as such marine artifacts as ships' clocks, barometers, and brass lanterns.

Farrand, a specialist in period interiors, established a color palette of blues, greens, and beiges that evoke water, beach, and sea glass, but that also look right for the house's age. Working with the couple's existing upholstered furniture, she knew the key to durability was carefully chosen slipcovers, in all-





natural, washable fabrics. Staying with her color palette, she chose a variety of prints and patterns, dressing the sofas and loveseats in stripes and adding interest with pillows in florals and solids. In the dining room, Farrand painted antique chairs a summery blue, and chose a drapery fabric of hand-painted roses based on an antique design.

Of course, with any old house, there are quirks. A long, narrow hallway overlooking the water proved to be a decorating challenge because it was not wide enough to furnish, yet still needed some softening. Farrand's solution: a 70-foot-long pleated window valance, and a sisal runner that fans out at either end into rooms of different proportions. In this part of the antique house lie two rooms that are small, quaint, and devoted to particular purposes. One is a sitting room furnished with a brushed-cotton sofa and an antique prayer bench, meant to accommodate napping or reading. The other room is filled with antique wicker arranged to encourage conversation.

Now the house is exactly what the owners desired: a comfortable port in sunshine or storm, rich in seafaring character. "It's much more of a turn-of-the-century cottage look," says one owner. "It's designed with a level of age and comfort that makes everyone feel at home immediately." ■

AROUND A DISTINCTIVE dining table made from reclaimed wood (LEFT), the owners' existing banister-back chairs stand out in a cool blue chosen by interior designer Deborah Farrand. Slender benches provide a perch in the long ocean-facing hall, which connects two seating areas (ABOVE).

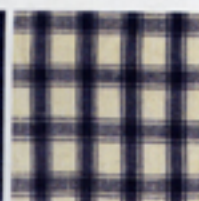
DESIGN DECISIONS

Creating Nautical Style with Fabrics

Interior designer Deborah Farrand infused this antique house in Maine with nautical style primarily through the fabrics she selected. "Every room has stripes, and every room has blue, to continually reinforce the nautical theme," says Farrand, whose clients in this house were inspired by their love of the sea. Since this is a vacation place, she kept the feeling simple and casual by using only natural fabrics—all cotton, or all linen—and by designing relaxed slipcovers for the existing upholstered furniture. To perk things up—and introduce references to the vintage rose and lily garden surrounding the house—she added accent pillows in patterns based on antique florals. "The extra splash of color brings the rooms alive," says Farrand.



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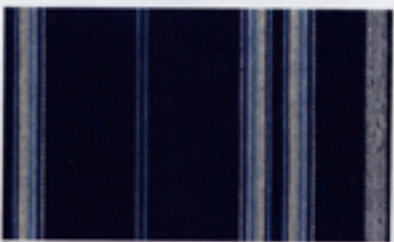
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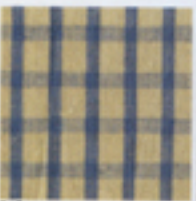
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Kitchen and Sitting Area

[A] Bar-stool cushions: Mac Innes, in Ink, from Robert Allen.

[B] Wicker seat cushions: Toulon Check LFY13277F, from Ralph Lauren.

[C] Pillow fronts on loveseat/chairs: Keswick Paisley, from Ralph Lauren.

[D] Window sheers: Fairfield Voile F2309-01, by Cowtan & Tout.

[E] Sofa and chair slipcovers: Baddek, in China Blue, from Robert Allen.

Living Room Pillows

[F] Ingram Tattersoll, in Blue, LFY21761, from Ralph Lauren.

[G] Daisy Sprig, in Red, and [H] Tokyo Rose, both from Bennisson.