

Seaside escapism flows through this Cape Cod vacation home, with sea glass colors, sparkling light, and driftwood-stained wide-plank oak floors the same hue as a white sand beach. The chunky reclaimed-wood table becomes a kitchen focal point; wicker chairs keep things light.

# family *casual*

The call of the seashore is a poignant one: sun-worn hues, openness, and a lighthearted spirit. This vacation cottage brings it all home.

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The kitchen area features white cabinetry and a green subway tile backsplash. Open white shelves are filled with various dishes, including plates, bowls, and a large green glass jug. A stainless steel sink with a modern faucet is visible on the countertop. The ceiling has recessed lighting.

A large, ornate chandelier with multiple arms and glass shades hangs from the ceiling. The chandelier has a dark metal frame and is decorated with hanging glass ornaments. Other smaller pendant lights are visible in the background.

The dining table is made of rustic, weathered wood with a thick top and a sturdy pedestal base. It is surrounded by wooden cane chairs with teal fabric seats and backs. On the table, there is a large teal bowl filled with oranges, a plate of sliced oranges, and two glass candle holders with lit candles. The floor is made of light-colored wood.







A breezy sand and teal palette lends freshness to the family room. Nubby fabrics, woven blinds, and a seagrass rug all lend textures that contrast with the sleek, dark bamboo coffee table and glossy ceramic accessories.

## Inspiration rolls readily off the blue waters

of Nantucket Sound. The air is fresh, the shoreline inviting, and the colors sun-washed and casual. It's this laid-back coastal essence that Ethan Arnold, who grew up here in Chatham, Massachusetts, sought to share with his wife, Helen, and their three children. When a search for an existing house eventually led to a not-so-perfect ranch claiming a lot with a sweeping overlook of the sea, they enlisted architect John DaSilva and interior designer Robin Pelissier to replace the ranch with a vacation home rich with seaside spirit. With a gambrel roof and ample windows, the new modest-size home is open and airy. A wide-plank oak floor was finished to resemble the color of sand, and Pelissier amplified the cottage feel with restful sea glass colors like sun-faded teals, plus navy and beachy tans.

The vacation home offers plenty of comfortable spaces for a family that likes to entertain. The open kitchen, for instance, handles a crowd with island seating and a large breakfast table. "Knowing this kitchen would be in a constant whirl of activity, we wanted to keep things easily accessible," Pelissier says. "Open shelving is so practical. All-white dishes keep the look super clean and fresh." Small appliances hide on roll-out shelves inside the cabinets. Polished surfaces add sparkle at night.

The kitchen and family room create one flexible space with a mix of loosely grouped materials, patterns, and colors. "We don't do things matchy-matchy," Pelissier says. "It just has to work together. The room is neutral enough that it has a lot of staying power, and the layerings of texture and color make it feel original. It's traditional with a dose of charm and lightheartedness. It's laid-back, like the family. It's a celebration of who they are."

The clean palette makes it easy to ready the vacation home for holidays with just a few accessorizing strokes or to accommodate the ebbs and flows of entertaining by shifting furniture. "The whole first floor really can be moved around. Everything looks good in every room," Pelissier says.

The upper level draws from the same spirit. The master bedroom offers panoramic views of the sound. "It's like being at the top of a lighthouse," Pelissier says. DaSilva likens it to the deck of an ocean liner. That's the beauty of a house inspired by the coastline. "Different people will make different associations," says DaSilva, "but nearly all will feel the urge to smile."



**OPPOSITE:** Wood kitchen stools play off stone countertops and white paneling. In a nod to vacation mode, “kids can swivel themselves into a frenzy if they want,” says interior designer Robin Pelissier. **ABOVE LEFT:** The same seaside tones work inside and out; a darkened front door delivers more impact. Slight curves in the gambrel roof evoke sweeps of the sea. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A sisal anchor rug and sea-horse hooks set a nautical tone in a mini mudroom by the front door. **BELOW LEFT:** A screen porch at the far end, an outdoor dining area, and a fire pit provide three seating options. Orange adds a splash of fun. **BELOW MIDDLE:** Most rooms—and the patio—reveal glimpses of the water. **BELOW RIGHT:** A window nook softens the hard surfaces of the kitchen and invites friends to relax near the cook.





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**OPPOSITE LEFT:** The master suite features expansive views of Nantucket Sound. Roman shades in simple sailcloth add privacy. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Soft lavender was a hit with the two girls who share this room. Furnishings were selected to stand the test of time, leaving walls for changing personal expression. The pillows toss an exotic Bohemian vibe into the mix. **ABOVE LEFT:** Breathably soft fabrics, such as linens and cottons in the master bedroom, invite vacation relaxation. Pelissier chose low-fuss machine-washable options throughout the home, also incorporating indoor-outdoor fabrics. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A custom cutout in the bunk room creates unique, playful character.