

New England Home

CELEBRATING FINE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

November/December 2009

Dramatic Impact

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2009 SHOWHOUSE HIGHLIGHTS:
Martha's Vineyard Decorator
Show House and Gardens

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Martha's Vineyard Decorator Show House and Gardens

CAPTAIN THOMAS MELLEN WOULD SCARCELY RECOG-

nize his Edgartown house today. It's just as grand as it was in 1840 when the captain built it, but thanks to the efforts of some thirty-five Martha's Vineyard design professionals, the seven-bedroom home has a fresh, updated look. In a twelve-day period, volunteers stripped off old wallpaper, replaced ceilings, patched walls and refinished floors. Then some of the island's best architects, designers, landscapers and craftspeople reworked the rooms and the gardens to transform the house. Now the home, in the heart of Edgartown's historic district, reflects the town's unique style as interpreted by the talented men and woman who re-imagined it. Throughout the summer and early fall, the show house attracted islanders and visitors, raising money for Habitat for Humanity of Martha's Vineyard. The good captain might be surprised by his house today, but no doubt he'd be delighted with its breezy new look. —Paula M. Bodah



Kitchen

Paul Lazes, of Rock Pond Kitchens, took his cue from the traditional farm kitchen of a century ago, then introduced a variety of materials and finishes to bring a contemporary twist and give this kitchen a personality all its own. Recognizing the classic beauty of an all-white kitchen, Lazes used traditional beadboard, white-painted cabinets and white marble countertops for the sink area. In the cooking area, though, he brought in natural wood cabinets and drawers and added a dark granite counter for a feeling of warmth.

Living Room

John Murphy, of Vineyard Decorators, chose a quiet, sophisticated palette for the living room. A Sunbrella fabric in a pale sea-blue and cream check ties the multiple seating areas together and brings a casual, summery feel to the room. The sophistication factor comes from Murphy's clever use of found objects and his layering of old and new. To wit: the cocktail table in front of the sofa is 1950s Bakelite, the bar is made of display risers from a dress shop, and the fireplace stools are pieces of antique cement columns.

Sitting Room

Mary Rentschler loved this little room the minute she saw it. "It was small, but had such a pleasing shape and such lovely light," she says. Her goal: to echo the natural beauty that lies outside the windows. Nina Campbell wallpaper sets the tone with its soothing color palette and its vintage design scaled up in size for a more contemporary look. A sofa upholstered in cotton and linen and faux bois armchairs add to the natural feel. Rentschler added shots of persimmon because, she says, "my eyes craved a spark."

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