

# MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

A TRADITIONAL-LOOKING RESIDENCE  
IN DENNIS CONCEALS A SURPRISE.

**BY JACI CONRY**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAN CUTRONA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE





The house, built in the 1970s, was designed to look like an antique Cape Cod-style cottage (facing page). In the living room (above), the washable slipcover on the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams sofa is deep blue Osborne & Little chenille. Custom throw pillows in shades of blue and green are made of Romo fabric. In subtle nods to the coastal locale, a Restoration Hardware mirror has thick rope detailing, and the distressed legs of the tufted-leather-topped coffee table recall driftwood. Sophisticated touches include the striking Harlequin upholstery on a cozy chair, a whirl of blue, green, and yellow hues. A spiked metal light fixture from Visual Comfort on the ceiling is unexpected and intriguing. "I love juxtaposing different materials," says Reider. "It adds textural interest to a space and gives the eye much to explore."



 YOUR HOME  
Summer Living

WHILE THE EXTERIOR of this Cape-style home in Dennis exudes the qualities of an antique cottage—a white clapboard facade, 12-by-12-pane windows—the interior has a mid-century vibe punctuated by modern textiles.

“The house was actually built to look like an antique Cape in the 1970s,” says Boston-based interior designer Rachel Reider, who uses the home as a seasonal retreat with her husband, Jamie Harper, and their two young daughters. However, save for wide-plank wood floors, the interior was devoid of any compelling detail. When the family bought the home in September 2015, Reider set about transforming its aesthetics in her signature style.

“I gave the interiors a clean, mid-century flair that resonates with the era [when] the house was built,” says Reider. Patterns and bold shades of blue give rooms a lively appeal, while varying textures add dimension.

Reider strove for a light, airy, summery feel while reflecting the coastal setting. However, she worked to find imaginative ways to bring in the environment so that the interior wasn’t overly beach themed. “You see so many Cape Cod houses with anchors and ship’s wheels all over the place. That’s not us,” she says. A mirror with heavy rope detailing and a sisal rug hint at nautical elements in the living room, and a weathered driftwood coffee table subtly recalls the shore.

“It’s a beach house—I want us to always feel relaxed here,” says Reider. While some of the upholstery and wall coverings, including the striking black-and-white Kelly Wearstler piece that sheaths the living room wall, have sophisticated appeal, the house is very easy to maintain.

“I didn’t want to have to worry about keeping things clean. I just envision coming back from a long day at the beach and sinking into the couch with a book,” says Reider. “Fabrics are washable. So it’s OK if sand gets on the couch.” ■

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The Colonial-style mantel on the existing fireplace didn’t fit the proportions of the home, so Reider had it removed. White shiplap paneling now wraps that wall. The painting is by Jenny Prinn, a Maine artist whose work Reider came across on Instagram. “She has a great sense of color, and I love how light yet vibrant this piece is,” says Reider. The wood Anthropologie chair lends a mid-century feel and is easily moved around the room.



In the master bedroom, the dramatic light fixture with oversize bulbs was created by Etsy vendor Hangout Lighting. One each side of the bed, hanging pendants made of rope bring in a coastal feel and don’t block the windows as table lamps would. Onset-based Trevor Watson created the artwork on the wall above the bed. The wall covering is Phillip Jeffries grasscloth, and the Roman shades are made of a Romo fabric with an airy tie-dye look.



The family loves to relax on the backyard deck. The sofa and oversize lounge chair are by Lotus Home; the Restoration Hardware coffee table, a concrete cast of a tree stump, adds contrast.