

OPEN Invitation

A Chatham guesthouse welcomes visitors of all ages.

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IT WAS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME. When the neighboring home went on the market, they knew they couldn't pass it up. The potential was to own two homes—both overlooking Chatham's Stage Harbor—on abutting properties with one shared driveway. Once combined, the two sites now form an enviable family compound.

For this serendipitous addition to their Cape Cod lifestyle, the owners envisioned a coastal-inspired interior that communicated elegance without compromising durability. "We wanted a casual and comfortable beach house with a different look and feel than our main house," they explain. "We also wanted furnishings and fabrics that would hold up to both a quiet family dinner and something as formal as a New Year's Eve celebration for 30."

WHY MESS WITH SUCCESS?

Marsha Malone's interior design business, Nautique, based in Brewster, decorated the compound's first house and was the owners' instinctive phone call when they bought the second. In order to give the two interiors distinct personalities, she approached the newer one with an updated color palette. "The primary colors of the main house are red, white, and navy," she explains, "so we decided to go with mainly blues, white, and yellows for the guesthouse. Additionally, we used a lot of sea foam colors."

BLENDING THE OLD WITH THE NEW

Due to a recent renovation, the newly purchased home did not require immediate changes in structure, materials, or lighting. It also came with a sampling of furnishings that challenged Malone to strategically refresh what was there while supplementing with new choices. Thanks to the artist, carpenters, and craftspeople on staff at her home décor store, Nautique, the designer was able to redo older furniture pieces using anything from slipcovers to new upholstery to hand-painting. "That's the beauty of having your own workroom—I was able to use what was already owned rather than buy everything new," she says.

On the first floor, guests enter into an open living space that contains the kitchen, dining area and living room. "The space was very monochromatic," observes Malone. "The kitchen was very neutral and the wooden dining set blended into the wood floors." She livened up the living room with sofas and club chairs in two distinct fabric patterns: a yellow-and-blue stripe and a striking blue basket weave. Both fabrics are water- and fade-resistant acrylic, which is durable for children as well as beach-goers. A navy area rug delineates the space.



In the family room, a palette of beachy hues was used. Facing page; top: Marsha Malone introduced bright pops of color such as this basket weave upholstered chair to the main living room. Bottom: A sofa already in place was updated with a khaki slipcover.



For the first-floor family room, Malone chose a palette of soft blues and coastal-inspired fabrics. She reinvented the sofa with a khaki slipcover and paired it with two chairs slipcovered in a whimsical shell fabric. Instead of a traditional coffee table, Malone was inspired by her own Coastal Collection furniture line at Nautique and opted for a custom piece. Built to her specs by her carpenters, it features hand-painted designs that echo the room's fabric motifs. Four custom ottomans fit neatly underneath. "It's a great space saving trick," she says of the design.

FUN, FUNCTIONAL AND FABULOUS

The spacious upstairs includes a generous bunkroom for kids. To complement the bunkroom's existing red-white-and-blue color palette, Malone added a set of navy bureaus; one sports a hand-painted compass rose and the other a succession of "mates" for each drawer. Additional custom touches for the owners' youngest residents include hand-painted crabs in the kids' bathroom as well as a pair of hand-carved great white sharks affixed to the top of two custom headboards.



Clockwise from top: The guest room features custom-made 'shark' beds. Classic stripes in cheerful colors on the living room sofas. In the kids' bunkroom, a custom-painted dresser has a drawer for each 'mate.'

"Marsha's attention to detail pulled this project together," assert the owners. "She has an uncanny knack for blending old and new. She transformed our house into everything we wanted—now we finally feel like it's home." [SHE-HOME](#)