

In the family room, shades of chocolate and cream on the Mark D. Sikes by Chaddock sofa's Quadrille upholstery pair with floors painted Farrow & Ball Stone Blue. **FACING PAGE:** A captain's desk turned console topped with the homeowners' majolica collection greets guests in the foyer.



hue school



Nods to nature and to the past combine with fearless colors for a Cape Cod home that's a lesson in layers.

Text by ERIKA AYN FINCH | *Photography by* GREG PREMURU
Produced by KARIN LIDBECK BRENT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: In the living room, a Partners in Design sectional covered in a Scalamandré upholstery sets off the pecky cypress wall paneling. An abaca Patterson Flynn rug on top of painted floors marries beachy and vintage Cape aesthetics, something that was important to the homeowner. Sans TV, the room, with its rattan chairs from 1stDibs, serves as a conversation space.

Some homeowners give their design team free rein during a remodel. Others, like Douglas Whitla and Jocelyn Chiappone’s clients, have done their homework.

After several years of vacationing in their waterfront home (and decades of summers spent in the area), the clients, a couple with three grown children, decided it was time to renovate their midcentury-built residence. They first reached out to Whitla, who they had known socially



ABOVE: The homeowner requested a kitchen where she could look at the water while making sandwiches for her family, says designer Jocelyn Chiappone. Hand-hewn aged maple tops the counters. **LEFT:** The cabinetry features a sunny yellow coffee station that takes its cue from the upholstery on the nearby banquette pillows. **FACING PAGE:** The study, with windows that open onto the four-season room, is a lesson in layers. Quadrille wallpaper adorns the walls, and the trim is painted Benjamin Moore Van Deusen Blue.



for years. Whitla connected them with Chiappone and her team at Digs Design Company, and the wife showed up prepared, pecky cypress photos and all.

“Jocelyn and I connected right away,” says the homeowner. “I had a strong sense of what I wanted in our new/old home, and she and her team were geniuses at bringing me rich, beautiful colors and textures and incorporating that classic Cape feel with a bit of edge. I told her I wanted sea captain meets ‘classic cool,’ and she nailed it.”

“Our client knew exactly how she wanted the house to *feel*,” confirms Chiappone. “She had a vision for it as a whole, but she imagined each room as having its own story. It was our task to bring that to life. What a rewarding experience to pay tribute to decades of family history while





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: At one end of the house, a deep blue ceiling in a bunk room with two queen beds adds some drama. A hallway includes end-to-end pine-clad sleeping nooks that can be closed off for privacy. Above the new garage, guest quarters feature a bath adorned with CW Stockwell wallpaper; the album cover on the right comes from The Incredible Casuals, a Cape Cod band that performed in Wellfleet every summer, says builder Doug Whitla. The homeowner requested a vacation feel for the primary bath, which has nickel-gap walls and a Palmer Industries vanity.



In the primary bedroom, the chaise upholstery and the wallpaper, both Peter Fasano, showcase similar shades of cream and chocolate brown as the family room sofa and chairs.

simultaneously expressing the modern, personal style of the current generation. This is a one-of-a-kind project that I'll never forget."

Though they might have had a specific vision for the house, the clients were open to taking risks. That included incorporating pecky cypress paneling on the walls of the living room and study. Pecky

cypress isn't common in New England, says Whitla. It's more often found in the South, and its essentially wood riddled with knots and holes that have been filled with, in this case, plaster, lending the paneling a painterly appearance. "It was a learning process," says Whitla, "but it's one of my favorite aspects of the house. It reminds me of '40s or '50s Florida."



ABOVE: The garage with its upper-level guest quarters (center) and the pool house (right) were part of the remodel, which took nearly three years to complete. **BELOW:** In the side-entry mudroom, Chiappone found a home for her client's Claire Murray rug in front of a vintage hat rack. **FACING PAGE:** The pool house embraces all things nautical. "It's such a special room," says Whitla. "In the summer, those doors are wide open, and in the fall, there's a fire in the fireplace."



"The natural elements form the cohesive line between the rooms."

—INTERIOR DESIGNER
JOCELYN CHIAPPONE

(Not surprisingly, the homeowner's Pinterest page included photos of designer Tom Scheerer's projects in the Bahamas, which feature the paneling.)

Quirky details and tributes to the home's midcentury origins topped the couple's wish list. Chiappone obliged with elements like flat-front and Shaker cabinetry in the kitchen, a vintage bamboo hat rack in the mudroom, doses of rattan and wicker throughout, an aged-mahogany countertop on the bar, and even an homage to a local band in the guest bath.

Taken down to its foundation during the remodel, the house was reimagined as a series of separate rooms with distinct purposes rather than an open floor plan. A pool house and a garage with guest quarters above were also added. "The natural elements form the cohesive line between the rooms," explains Chiappone.



ABOVE: The bar can be accessed from inside the house or from the four-season room. **RIGHT:** The four-season room is large enough that it's the homeowners' favorite spot to host Thanksgiving. **FACING PAGE:** The room features the same HeartWood fold-up windows as the kitchen. The weighted windows open effortlessly, says Whitla, and fold flat against the room's pine ceiling.

That might be most evident in the room she calls the "informal formal living room," where pecky cypress paneling pairs with an abaca rug and floral Scalamandré upholstery on the sectional, chairs, and window coverings. After a process of trial and error, the design team landed on Benjamin Moore Arugula for the window frames. "Sometimes you have to find a color you love rather than one that matches exactly," Chiappone says.

The bold shade of green is just one of the reasons why the wife includes the living

room as a favorite spot in the house. "In the summer, there's no place like our porch—or the kitchen table—with all the windows thrown open wide," she says. "It feels like you're sitting on the bow of a boat, looking over the water. But in the off-season, curling up in front of the fireplace on the big sofas Jocelyn designed, surrounded by the pecky cypress walls that were a joint creation by Jocelyn's and Doug's teams, is something that can't be beat."

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE: DSK | Dewing Schmid Kearns

INTERIOR DESIGN: Digs Design Company

BUILDER: Whitla Brothers Builders

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Philip L. Cheney

