

New England HOME

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ON THE COVER: A sunny start to the day is ensured by a show-stopping light fixture in the breakfast room of a Boston-area home revamped by architect Adolfo Perez and designer Manuel de Santaren. Photograph by Laura Moss. To see more of this home, turn to page 134.

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Our eighth annual celebration of New England's best young design professionals.

Text by Erin Marvin



The dining room's velvet-covered wing chairs provide a luxe counterpoint to the vintage violin maker's table and textural pendant light. **FACING PAGE:** The living room is contemporary in feel, now that the old brick hearth has been replaced by a sleek stone surround. Easy-care slipcovered chairs flank a cocktail table of black grasscloth and brass.



smooth sailing

A STEM-TO-STERN MAKEOVER TURNS AN OLD CAPE COD SALTBOX INTO A RETREAT WITH TIMELESS COTTAGE STYLE.

Text by **Maria LaPiana** • Photography by **Michael J. Lee** • Produced by **Stacy Kunstel**



The living room adopts a nautical air without being too obvious. The windows in the room's new bump-out bathe the space in natural light. The breezy shades can be rolled up and fastened with rope, while shutters offer flexible privacy control at the room's front window.

PROJECT TEAM

Architecture: Peter McDonald, Peter McDonald Architect
Interior architecture and design: Lisa Tharp, Lisa Tharp Design
Builder: Clay Wilkins, Wilkins Construction
Landscape design: Phil Cheney, Cheney Landscape Design



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iving a home the nautical treatment is a delicate maneuver. One too many anchors or portholes and you'll most certainly go overboard. A nautical theme done well is as thoughtful and subtle as it is tongue-in-cheek. It's authentic, informed—and unexpected. ¶ Step into this summery home on Cape Cod for a fresh take on the maritime theme. To wit: the wooden planks on the floor

of the master bath's indoor/outdoor shower were upcycled from the Coney Island boardwalk.

The sweeping renovation of the old saltbox in Eastham, Massachusetts, was captained by interior designer Lisa Tharp of Boston, who drew inspiration from sailboat building traditions and the Cape's relaxed vernacular. Architect Peter McDonald executed a modern vision for the exterior and collaborated with Tharp on reinventing the existing space.



The overarching theme of the project is “the luxury of simplicity,” which Lisa Tharp defines as “having all that you need, when and where you need it, and nothing more.”

Contractor Clay Wilkins of Chatham, who is more traditional craftsman than builder, did much of the work himself. Outside, landscape designer Phil Cheney of South Yarmouth met the challenges of a flood plain and salt marsh with style.

The clients, whose primary residence is in New Jersey, wanted to preserve the original saltbox structure while making it look as though it had been



thoughtfully added onto over time. “It was just built too well to tear down,” McDonald says. For the exterior, the architect chose familiar, low-maintenance cedar shingles and a cedar roof with white trim, in a nod to the Cape’s iconic look.

The project consisted of undoing years of inconsistent remodeling, adding more space, taking away the fussy formality of the home, and creating ways to connect with the outdoors. Because the owners wanted to use the home intermittently with minimal disruption, the work took place in two phases over three years.

In the end, the home’s footprint was changed appreciably; the house went from 1,700 square feet, including the garage, to 3,125 square feet of living space. A labyrinth of small rooms was opened up and modernized, the garage became a master suite with vaulted ceiling, and an engaging loft space was created on the second floor. A new ell at the rear added a bright, open kitchen, a dining room, screened porch, mudroom, laundry room, and one of the home’s two outdoor showers. Tharp calls the overarching theme of the project “the luxury of simplicity,” which she defines as “having all that you need, when and where you need it, and nothing more.”

Both the designer and architect agree that the new kitchen changed the way the family experiences the entire house, with its vaulted ceiling, teak ridge beam, and clerestory windows for maximum natural light. “I do kitchen clerestory windows a lot. I can’t help it,” McDonald admits. “I think you should be



The screened porch is furnished with comfy sofas and tea-height tables for casual eating and reading, making it a favorite gathering spot. **FACING PAGE, TOP:** The kitchen was designed with an eye toward functionality and good looks, with yacht-inspired lighting and counters of teak and holly woods. **FACING PAGE, BOTTOM:** The kitchen opens to the light-filled dining room.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The master bath's indoor shower connects to its outdoor counterpart. A view of the new ell that maximizes indoor and outdoor space at the back of the house. A second outdoor shower has an open rafter roof and walkway to kitchen deck. One of two matching vanities in the master bath; the wire bases are former flower displays.

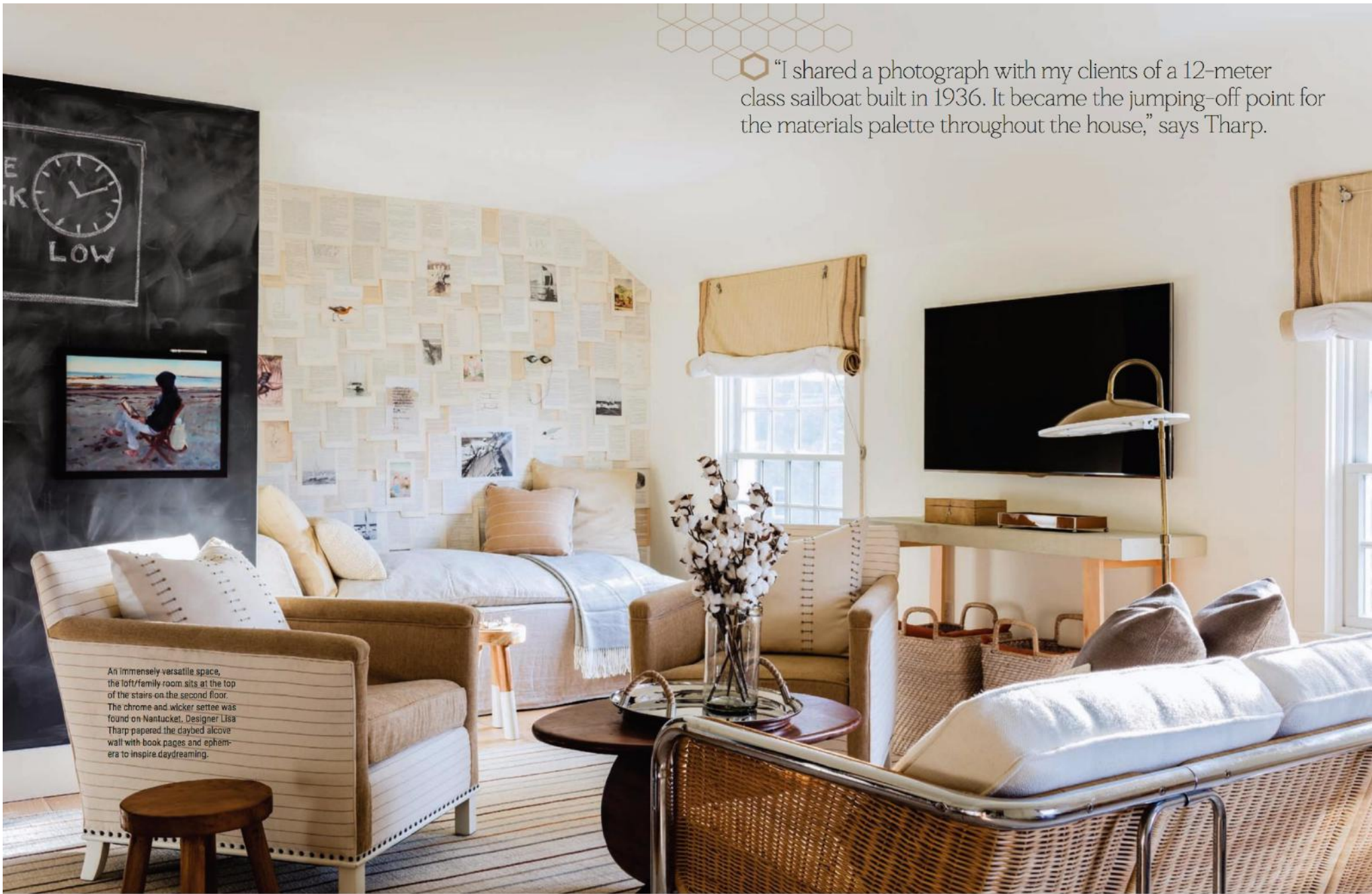


able to cook during the day and see what you're doing without turning on the lights."

Tharp selected a mix of classic materials (teak and holly boat-decking for the counters) and modern (Neolith on the massive island). She hid the appliances, save the La Cornue range. A table fashioned from a violinmaker's old workbench is the centerpiece of the adjoining dining room, where French doors frame views of the marsh, so the homeowners can serve up ambience with every meal.

The main traffic lane from the front door to the rest of the house runs through the living room, where an old brick fireplace with a large raised hearth was replaced with a simple, smooth fireplace surround. Tharp and McDonald collaborated on the design of a window nook bump-out long enough to accommodate two twin mattresses placed end to end. Transforming the sense of light and space in the room, it fast became a favorite lounging place.

Another popular "away space" is the second-floor loft, with its comfy lounge chairs, cool midcentury settee, big-screen TV, and chalkboard wall. Slipcovered in light linen, the daybed is a cozy spot adorned with a wall of layered vintage book pages and ephemera. It's an area that invites repose, daydreaming, and of course, reading.



“I shared a photograph with my clients of a 12-meter class sailboat built in 1936. It became the jumping-off point for the materials palette throughout the house,” says Tharp.

An immensely versatile space, the loft/family room sits at the top of the stairs on the second floor. The chrome and wicker settee was found on Nantucket. Designer Lisa Tharp papered the daybed alcove wall with book pages and ephemera to inspire daydreaming.

Tharp designed the master bedroom's custom canopy bed with a subtle reference to boat dock cleats. New ceiling rafters and planking throughout add airiness and authenticity. **FACING PAGE, TOP:** The guest bedroom is a rich mix of textures with its navy grasscloth backdrop, embroidered pillows, and bed linens. **FACING PAGE, BOTTOM:** In the master dressing room, a ten-foot antique apothecary chest offers storage and vintage charm.



Quiet accents of pale grays, blues, and warmer tones reflect the salt marshes outside while keeping things serene.

French doors off the master suite open to the spectacular salt marshes that seem to stretch for miles. Massive barn doors separate the master bedroom from the dressing room and bath. To shut out noise from the road in what used to be the garage, McDonald flanked the front-facing windows with exterior barn doors that close for optional privacy. The suite's most unusual feature has to be the shower that opens to . . . a shower. "I wanted to blur the lines between inside and out," says Tharp, so the interior



shower with waterproof, chalky, pool-plaster walls is separated from the outdoor shower only by a weatherproof glass door. Installation of the integrated slider between the two showers was a challenge, says McDonald, but the result was well worth the effort.

Tharp's choice of materials was inspired by those found on classic yachts. "Early on I shared a photograph with my clients of the Bloodhound, a 12-meter class sailboat built in 1936. It has a beautiful white mahogany and teak hull with glorious canvas sails; it became the jumping-off point for the materials palette throughout the house," she says. Quiet accents of pale grays, blues, and warmer tones reflect the salt marshes outside while keeping things serene.

Beyond those boardwalk planks, there are subtle nautical touches throughout the home. In the master bedroom, breezy striped shades unfurl by untying a simple rope, like a sail. In the powder room, lights were fashioned from an old fishing basket, and vintage canoe chairs were used as shelving in the laundry room. In the kitchen, pendant lamps recall tall ship masts, map light sconces evoke charting a nautical course, and a pair of marine salvage portholes are set into the pantry door. The yacht-inspired custom counter chairs were made by Richard Wrightman of New York, a brilliant craftsman of campaign furniture.

It's that level of sophistication and attention to detail that takes this uncommon nautical treatment from cliché to clever. ■

RESOURCES: For more information about this home, see page 232.

Trade Notes

BY PAULA M. BODAH



1) Designer Lisa Tharp in her new digs on Boston's Newbury Street. 2) A contemporary house by architects Dan Hisel and Katie Flynn.



A shared design sensibility and a shared philosophy about the role of their profession have led Dan Hisel and Katie Flynn to band together to form **Hisel Flynn Architects**. The two describe themselves as optimists who believe every project they work on should have a positive impact on its surroundings. On the residential side, they design new homes as well as sensitive renovations, while on the commercial side, they aim to bring adventurous design to urban projects. Nonprofit clients deserve great design, too, and to that end the firm waives a portion of its fees. | *Arlington, Mass., hiselflynn.com*

As Boston designer **Duncan Hughes** gets ready to launch his furniture collection for Dowel, he's looking forward to introducing a smart new line that presents a twist on familiar forms. Due out this fall, his pieces blend the femininity of 1940s French furniture with the masculine warmth of midcentury American furniture for a look he calls simple, lean, and elegant. | *Boston, duncanhughes.com, www.dowel.furniture*

People who love the sleek, sophisticated elegance of **Molteni&C's** furniture will be delighted to learn that the showroom has reopened in a new, 1,000-square-foot space on Harrison Avenue in Boston's stylish SoWa district. The company will also debut Dada kitchens, a Molteni Group brand,

wardrobes and walk-in closets as well as both new and iconic pieces for the living and dining rooms.

| *Boston, moltenigroup.com*

Designer Lisa Tharp has a new outlook on life—or at least the outdoors—since recently opening her studio on Boston's Newbury Street. From the sunny third-floor space in the Back Bay that stands as the headquarters of **Lisa Tharp Interior Architecture + Design**, she and her staff find inspiration in the sights, sounds, and energy of the street below. "I treasure my morning walk down the leafy mall of Commonwealth Avenue," she says, "imagining the city planners, architects, designers, artists, builders, and patrons who came before, with gratitude for the gifts they gave this incredible city." | *Boston, lisatharp.com*

Architect John MacDonald of **Morehouse MacDonald and Associates** and interior designer Shelby Simes of **Sterling Design Interiors** have combined their talents often over the past twenty-five years. So it makes perfect sense that they would join forces to make the collaboration official. MacDonald's clients often say they'd like to be able to use one source for both architecture and interior design, the architect says, and the success he and Simes have enjoyed together over the years makes the new joint venture a win for them and their clients. | *Lexington, Mass., morehousemacdonald.com*

at this location for the first time in Boston. In addition to its kitchen line, the showroom features Molteni&C's