



A TALE OF TWO STYLES

Interior designer Crystal Smith of Bittners creates a seaside-inspired family home employing both classic and contemporary elements.

Written by Bridget Williams / Photography by Andrew Kung

"I wanted a complete change," said the wife, whose previous residence was a traditional brick home on the outside and full of earth tones inside. Growing up in the Northeast, the wife's childhood architectural memories are strongly expressed in her family's new home's Nantucket contemporary character. Bringing the project to fruition was a team comprised of architect Daniel Grimm, Dave Weis of Meridian Construction, and interior designer Crystal Smith of Bittners. Having worked together for eight years before this project, Smith already had a good idea of the client's wants and needs. "I presented them with my ideas, and they said 'go for it,'" said Smith.

Apropos for a young and active family, there is a playful juxtaposition of formal and classic motifs with carefully selected rustic and industrial elements. Judicious use of the color blue in hues from sea to sky recalls a seaside retreat and underscores an overall feeling of put-your-feet-up-ease.

In the formal dining room, separated from the entry by a contemporary-style transom, Octavia sisal wallcovering from Schumacher's Orient Express collection dresses the walls above crisp white wainscoting. The captain's chairs are upholstered with chinoiserie fabric, the colors of which are also found in a lively abstract artwork casually resting atop the sideboard. Overhead, rough-hewn beams counter the contemporary lines of the black-and-brass nine-arm globe chandelier. A doorway at the far end of the room provides a peek into the wallpapered butler's pantry.

A section of reclaimed beam accentuates the hood above the Wolf range in the kitchen. Pulled up to the long center island, painted blue to stand out against the prevailing white cabinetry, are bar stools upholstered with Schumacher fabric that coordinates with the wallcovering in the dining room. The fabric's octagonal pattern repeats on the chinoiserie bamboo chairbacks surrounding the rustic dining table. Above, light filters through a metal mesh screen of the industrial-style cage chandelier. The home's enviable positioning on a large lot bordered by mature trees negates the need for window treatments in rooms facing the backyard.

Accordion doors in the family room, open to the kitchen, slide back to provide alfresco dining space for eight on the screened porch. The family room's seating, selected for its ability to be both comfortable and hardworking, is oriented around a fireplace flanked by built-in bookshelves.



Opposite page: Discreetly tucked off the kitchen is an adult-oriented retreat with a beamed, vaulted ceiling that continues the harmonious melding of classic, contemporary and rustic elements found elsewhere. Wallpaper is Acanthus Stripe, a sisal wallpaper in chambray blue designed by Celerie Kemble for Schumacher. *This page:* In the formal dining room, Octavia sisal wallcovering from Schumacher's Orient Express collection dresses the walls above crisp white wainscoting.



Bar stools in the kitchen are upholstered with Schumacher fabric that coordinates with the wallcovering in the dining room. The fabric's octagonal pattern repeats on the chinoiserie bamboo chairbacks surrounding the rustic dining table.

Rough hewn beams are a predominant architectural accent throughout the home. Accordion doors in the family room, slide back to provide alfresco dining space for eight on the screened porch.



The chic home office is defined by floor-to-ceiling decorative wall paneling painted Air Force blue.



An exposed curved beam painted the same color as the ceiling in the vaulted primary suite is an interesting architectural element.



Discreetly tucked off the kitchen is an adult-oriented retreat with a beamed, vaulted ceiling that continues the harmonious melding of classic, contemporary and rustic elements found elsewhere. Accenting the wall behind the bar, notable for its live edge top, is Acanthus Stripe, a sisal wallpaper in chambray blue designed by Celerie Kemble for Schumacher. The classic motif is a fitting foil to the industrial edge of the open shelving. Surrounding a circular coffee table that resembles the stopper in a bourbon bottle are four swivel armchairs with ikat accent pillows. The linear pattern of the stone surrounding the room's floating fireplace is echoed in the tattersall-style rug. Ombre linen drapery and an abstract rendition of oversized oyster shells pull the entire color palette together and conjure up a relaxed happy hour in an easy breezy beach cottage.

The restful primary bedroom is one of the most muted rooms in terms of color. Smith employed pops of aqua blue courtesy of bedside lamps, artwork, drapery, and accent pillows to add subtle energy to space. An exposed curved beam painted the same color as the ceiling in the vaulted area is an interesting architectural element.

In contrast to the light and airy primary suite, the chic home office is defined by floor-to-ceiling decorative wall paneling painted Air Force blue. Suspended from the wallpapered ceiling is a mid-century-inspired six-arm brass chandelier with cone-shaped black metal shades. Continuing the mid-century glam is a pair of armchairs with exposed brass frames and textural upholstery, along with an X-base desk.

"Colorful and lively, this home is a perfect reflection of the people who live here," said Smith. "There isn't a space that doesn't get used." 