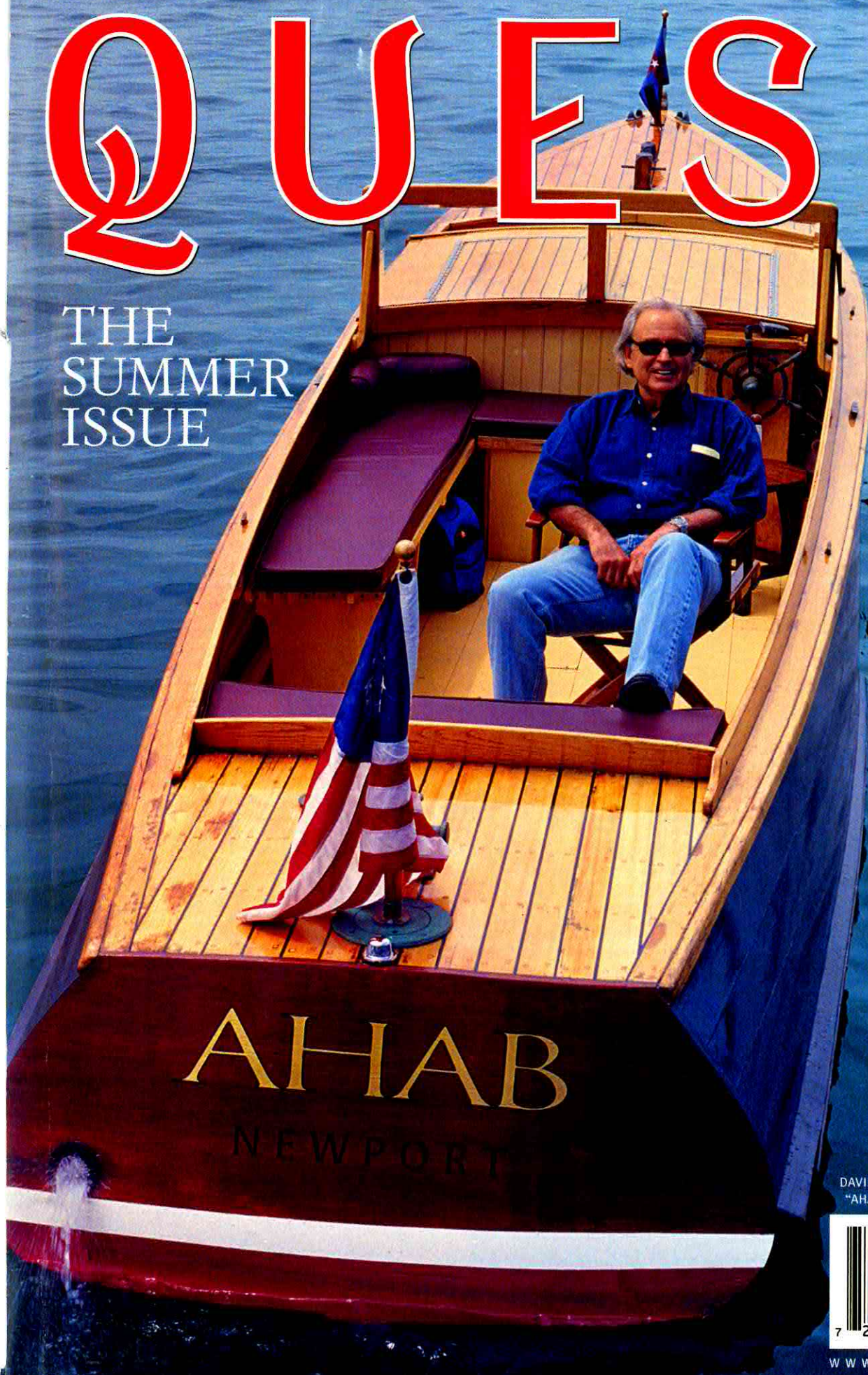


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QUEST

THE
SUMMER
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DAVID RAY ABOARD HIS LAUNCH
"AHAB" IN NEWPORT HARBOR.



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Left: The fireplace, whose mantel is an old found piece, is the heart of the sun-drenched living room, cozily furnished in white sparked by floral and plaid accents.

Opposite page: The huge tortoiseshell above the dining area's floating mantel dates from the 1800s, its scrimshaw most likely carved by whalers. On either side are recessed bookshelves decorated with a shell design.

NANTUCKET NECTAR

BY MICHELE KEITH

A MAGNET FOR *FORBES* 500 CEOS AND POLITICOS LIKE Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Nantucket is a gem of an island that dazzles body, mind, and spirit. Far enough away from the mainland to provide privacy and accessible only by ferry, it's a National Historical District adorned with cobblestone streets and 19th-century buildings. Edged by white-sand beaches, its ever-changing light is especially appreciated by artists.

The restaurants here are top-notch, presided over by some of the best chefs on the planet, and there's a plethora of available activities (with wine auctions and baseball games high on everyone's list). Yet most summertime residents come to relax, to enjoy a respite from paparazzi and TV cameras. And a beautiful home is the key to blissful downtime, and many—both brand-new and restored landmarks—are the designs of another longtime resident: renowned architect Lyman Perry.

During the 50-plus years Perry has been on Nantucket, he's designed more than 100 residences. "I began years ago, buying old houses and fixing them up," he says. "Little did I know back then that the place would become a Mecca for the rich and famous."

A favorite because he listens to his clients, Perry also "listens" to the site where a house will be situated. "I think about

the outside spaces as much as the inside, viewing them as additional rooms," he explains. "My goal is always to work with the land, never imposing my ideas onto it." As in the case of the home illustrated on these pages, which was created for a prominent Philadelphia family, Perry's approach to building is to make the structure "of the land" not "on the land."

The house "feels as if it's been here for a long time," says Perry, even though it is brand-new and distinct from any of the styles that dot the island—Eastlake, Queen Anne, Victorian, Greek Revival, and the stately, yet simple, "typical Nantucket" home that dates back to the 1700s.

Approximately 5,000 square feet, the three-level, 10-room, "cottage-style" house sits on an acre of land partly chosen for its magnificent views of Shimmo Pond and Nantucket Harbor. It is convenient to the town center as well, and the twinkling lights one sees at night are as beautiful as the stars in the sky.

Covered with vines in the warm months, the slatted section of the roof is a key feature of the porch, as it is devised to allow the maximum amount of light, not only to shine down onto it, but also into the kitchen and family room behind. The flooring is of dense paulope, a species of wood that never rots, an important



Above: The family room exudes a relaxed feel with wood and rattan furniture and wood-manteled fireplace.

Below: Decorated with a palette of soft yellows and blues, the guest bedroom is cozy, its window seat the perfect place to curl up with a good book.

Opposite page: The sea-faring, seashell theme continues in the front entryway.



consideration for any house in close proximity to water.

The interiors, done in collaboration with interior designer Trudy Dujardin, combine new pieces with old; many of them, like the fireplace mantel in the living/dining room, are “found” objects, retrieved from old estates and a cadre of local dealers who know the island intimately. Perry calls the décor “elegantly simple,” with such signature touches as the opposing fireplaces with their “floating” mantels with no supports on either end. The overall look is cozy, yet sufficiently stylized for the vast amount of entertaining the occupants do during the season. Here and elsewhere, floors were created of foot-wide planks of old-growth, long-leaf yellow pine.

The sometimes surprising mix of furniture, from a range of different periods, works quite well throughout the house, thanks to Perry’s astute eye for color, texture, and proportion. Illustrative of his skill is the study, laid with a rustic grass cloth rug and furnished with a fine Biedermeier captain’s desk and chair.

The family room is decked out with wicker furniture, plump with cushions, and filled with light that streams in through the French doors. Equally sunny and spacious are the bedrooms, some of which have cathedral ceilings and such homey touches as window seats, which open to provide abundant storage space.

“Like all architecture, this house was a challenge,” says Perry. But whether it’s a private home or a commercial project, such as the school he designed for learning disabled children, “when the inhabitants say they ‘love’ being there, that’s the ultimate reward.” ♦

NANTUCKET
NECTAR



