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A New Look at Old Nantucket



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A House Built on Dreams

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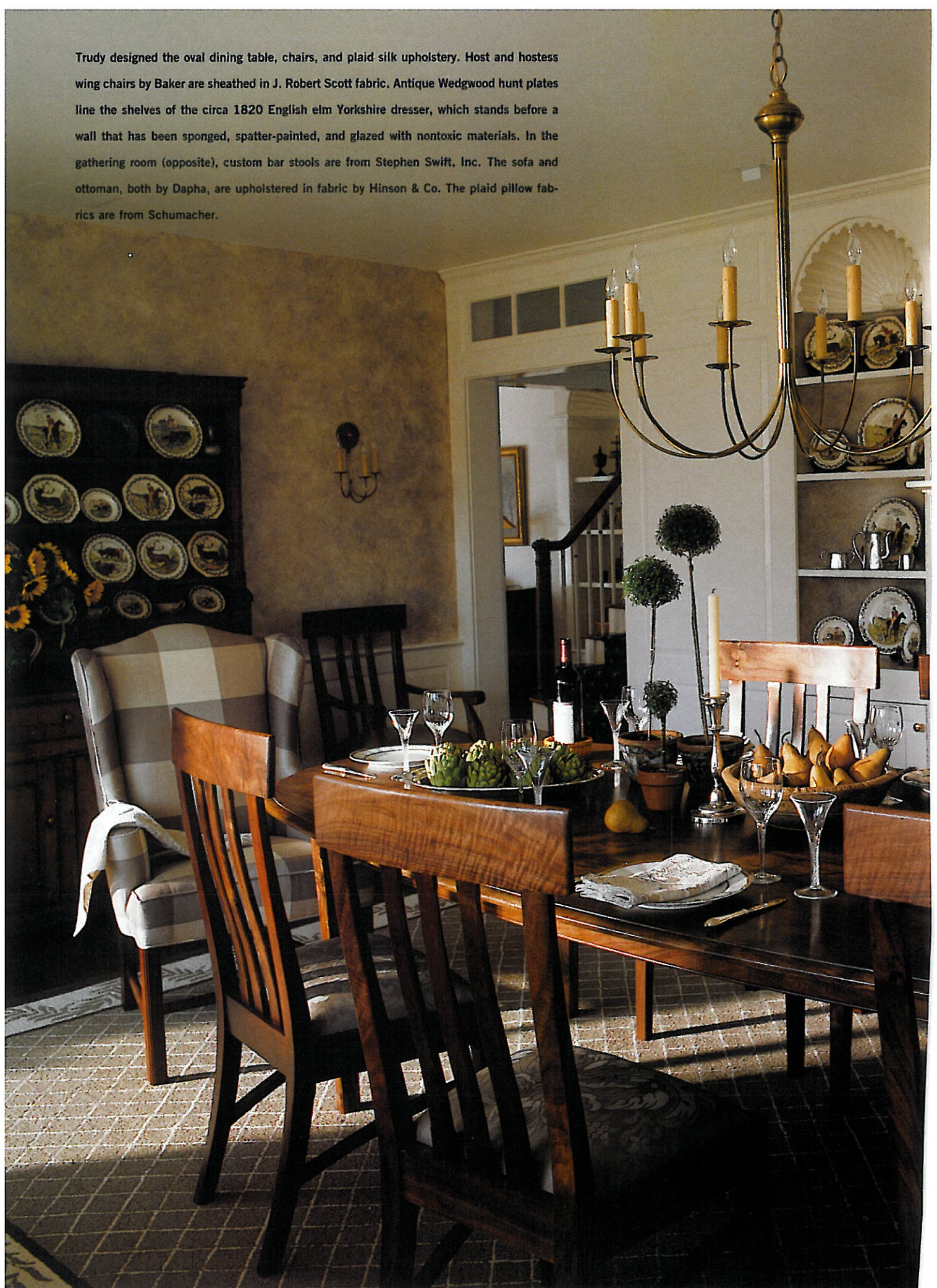
Many people have visions of their ideal homes, but how many actually get to see their dreams materialize? Trudy Dujardin, an interior designer in both Westport, Connecticut, and Nantucket, considers herself among the lucky ones. "This is nirvana, our 'forever' house," Trudy says of the harbor-side haven that she and her husband, Paul, share on Nantucket Island. Almost 6,500 square feet, it contains all the elements that the couple considers necessary in an ideal home. Functional and attractive, the house also serves as a kind of frame for picturesque views of the harbor and the town.

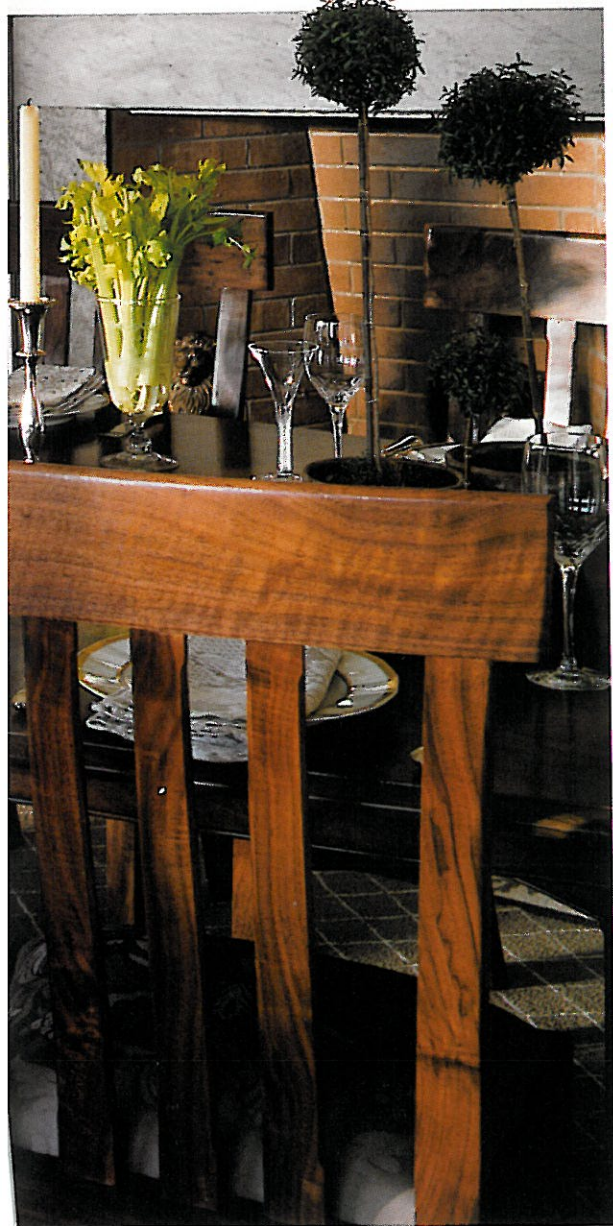
The Dujardins have owned other residences on Nantucket, but they were inland. Their search for waterfront property in

A winding path leads to this Nantucket home. French doors, engaged columns, and a dormer window are architectural highlights of the structure. The foyer welcomes visitors with traditional Nantucket motifs—like the scalloped shell on the niche—and inspired accents. Antique treenware, lightship baskets, and ivory canes are from Forager House Collection. A cobalt-blue runner from Stark guides visitors along the stairway. Cherry outlines the wainscoting.



Trudy designed the oval dining table, chairs, and plaid silk upholstery. Host and hostess wing chairs by Baker are sheathed in J. Robert Scott fabric. Antique Wedgwood hunt plates line the shelves of the circa 1820 English elm Yorkshire dresser, which stands before a wall that has been sponged, spatter-painted, and glazed with nontoxic materials. In the gathering room (opposite), custom bar stools are from Stephen Swift, Inc. The sofa and ottoman, both by Dapha, are upholstered in fabric by Hinson & Co. The plaid pillow fabrics are from Schumacher.





1988 led the couple to this site, in the scenic Monomoy area of the island. With visions of the perfect house dancing in their heads, Trudy and Paul assembled a “dream team” that included Lyman S. A. Perry, an architect on Nantucket and in Berwyn, Pennsylvania. After removing an existing structure from the property, Lyman worked with his clients to create the “classic, timeless Nantucket home with understated elegance” that they sought. “The design of the facade never changed from the first drawing he showed us,” says Trudy. Lyman defines the structure as “vernacular style with post-modern details.” Round columns on the front and rear porches throw a curve to traditional shingle design.

The Dujardins wanted to be constantly aware of the harbor when they are inside the house. Therefore, the house has a plethora of windows and glass doors. “The entryway is like a breezeway and gives a sense of relationship of the house to the water,” says Lyman. “French doors at the front and back of the house draw you in,” adds Trudy.

Architectural details inspire the interiors without overpowering them. A cherry staircase features turned columns with cherry details. A floor-to-ceiling bay window in the breakfast area offers a view of the morning ferry traversing the harbor. A curved second-floor

Pilasters delineate the entrance to the living room (below). The built-in shelves display antique porcelain. A library alcove contains books on Nantucket, as well as scrimshaw, whaling logs, and a model of the *Charlie Morgan*. In a seating area defined by a sisal carpet, a blue-and-white scheme emphasizes the open, light-flooded space. The grand bergère chairs are from J. Robert Scott. The club chair and coffee table are from Baker. All of the upholstery fabric is from Hinson & Co. In the curved gallery above, an old ship's piano sets the stage for conviviality. "It's where the band plays when we have parties," says Trudy. It also allows for a clear view of the harbor via a dormer window. Adjacent to the living room is the sun porch (right), with its "foggy" gray-and-white walls. The cherry floors have been bleached, then given a grayish whitewash, and finally stenciled with three-dimensional shadow boxes. Such details had been envisioned from the beginning. "I knew exactly what I wanted," Trudy stresses. The furniture is by McGuire; the pillow and white drapery fabric by Waverly. The study (opposite), which is also Paul's office, has built-in cabinets that conceal technical equipment. It is paneled in cherry with a handrubbed French patina finish that is also used on floors throughout the house. An antique Kilim rug heightens the richness of the room.



gallery mimics a ship's balcony. Wainscoting, pilasters, and molding add dimension to walls and doorways.

Many details, such as the scalloped shell motifs on handcarved niches and transoms above doors and windows, were adapted from old Nantucket homes. Nickel silver hardware harks back to the 1800s, when a wealth of silversmiths lived on the island. Other features were created to showcase the Dujardins' collections of nautical artifacts, treenware, Russian antiques, and American Impressionism paintings.

Trudy's interior design complements the architecture. Many rooms have a simple blue-and-white scheme, while details give the rooms character. Modern elements are quietly infused into the interiors. In one room, lighting designer Gary Novasel used halogen lights with translucent glass fixtures to establish a warm glow. Flush-mounted recessed speakers allow a state-of-the-art sound system to be enjoyed throughout the house.

One of the most impressive, but least noticeable, features of the house is that it was constructed of mostly nontoxic materials. The owners' allergies and desire to "be kind to the environment" dictated the use of woods that had not been pressure-treated (these woods contain arsenic compounds) and paints that are citrus-oil based rather than petroleum based (for lower outgassing). A carbon filter was installed to eliminate any harmful gasses from the indoor air.

Because their property rests near wetlands, the Dujardins worked with the local conservation commission to replicate a wetlands area. Landscaper Marty McGowan punctuated the property with appropriate shrubs and flowers. At night, the garden is lit, and, with the lights of the town and the glowing harbor, the Dujardin home has the aura of an enchanted villa. For its efforts, the "dream team" was commended by the local historical district commission for its attention to historic detail and sensitivity to the architectural context of the island and the site. Lyman, who has worked on 20 to 30 projects on Nantucket, says that this was "the most satisfying one to date." For Paul and Trudy, the ultimate reward is to awaken every morning and know their dream has become a reality.







The shades are almost never drawn in this bedroom with a view. "At night, the lights of the boats and the town just sparkle like stars," Trudy says. Manuel Canovas fabric covers a Baker ottoman and chairs. The antique leather luggage is from Wayne Pratt & Company. The carpet is from Stark. Nautical items abound in the Dujardin house. The English pond yacht (right) rests on a 1780 campaign chest. Next to it is a Chinese Chippendale chair that belonged to Paul's father. Fishing gear is from Tonkin of Nantucket.

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