



# Perfection

## ON THE OUTER CAPE

By Janet Mendelsohn  
Photography by Brian Vanden Brink



The Shingle Style outside is juxtaposed with a Modernist aesthetic inside, including this sparkling eat-in kitchen with fireplace.

mer, for my entire life," Burt Staniar says. "I have owned or rented homes in a number of locations, but each was always lacking in one way or another. I am now fortunate enough to have a house that suits me and my wife, Nancy, perfectly. It suits us when we want boisterous socializing or a quiet

conversation, when we want to retreat into a novel or run around with our grandchildren, when we want to revel in the beauty of the landscape, or when we need to clean the catch-of-the-day."

That's because from day one, the Staniars worked closely with Polhemus Savery DaSilva Architects Builders in Chatham, the integrated architecture and construction firm they chose for the project.

"When a client is engaged, it leads to a better design," says John DaSilva, principal designer at the firm. "The Staniars were as involved in design as any client we've ever had, and they were great clients." The result is a seamless marriage of the owners' Modernist aesthetic and Shingle Style, spectacularly sited overlooking Stage Harbor and beyond that, Nantucket Sound.

In part an American architectural interpretation of English country homes, the Shingle Style is synonymous with the Cape and Islands. The design relies on tried-and-true forms and techniques to build wooden homes with casual style and crisp white trim. Inspired by that sensibility, the Staniar's



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### A Modernist aesthetic and Shingle Style come together in a dramatic home overlooking Stage Harbor in Chatham, Massachusetts.

A WEATHERVANE — a struggling bass caught on a line — hints at what's special about one particular house in Chatham, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. It's a home that reflects the personalities and interests of its owners, Burt and Nancy Staniar, who share a love of abstract paintings, Cape Cod landscapes, African art, contemporary design, antiques, philanthropy and English country cottages. She's an interior designer in New York City, where they maintain their other residence. He's the former CEO and current chairman of Knoll, a manufacturer of modern furnishings for home and office. He's also an avid angler with a soft spot for classic cars and wooden boats. Semi-retirement means nearly every day here you'll find



him fishing for striped bass, or maybe bluefish, from his Chatham-built, 26' Pease Brothers fishing boat, *Nancy Lee*, or sailing *Pandora*, a 20' catboat. "I've been coming to Cape Cod, in the sum-



In addition to fishing and fine yachts, the homeowner's tastes include classic cars and the Shingle style.

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### PERFECTION ON THE CAPE

6,900-square-foot home, is laid out like half of a butterfly, a plan that's another stalwart of English style and perfect for capturing the water views here.

A long porch runs the full length of the front. Beyond is a rectangular central core with an elongated entry that showcases art, a staircase, an intimate first-floor library, and attached garage. At the grand reception hall's far end is a vestibule space that overlooks the wide lawn, large outdoor pool and hot tub, and the harbor. Two wings project out from the vestibule at 45-degree angles. One wing takes advantage of eastern light for the kitchen, informal dining and a screened porch with BBQ. The other, designed for large charity events, has a formal dining room and adjacent open terrace for cocktails at sunset.

Four bedrooms are upstairs. Off the master suite is a balcony with enviable outdoor shower. In a guest bedroom, children climb a ladder to play in a raised half-hull dory or duck into a hatch with porthole in the wall.

Separate from the main house is a 1,000-square-foot guest apartment nestled among the trees. With its curving bracket trim, the outbuilding

From the boat-playhouse in the guest bedroom, at left, to the floor-to-ceiling windows, the ocean takes center stage at this home.



The harbor is hardly ever out of sight from inside this home, including the master bath.

exudes a nautical flair. From the entry, you can't tell the guest suite is perched above a car barn and auto workshop for Burt Staniar's 1939 Ford Woody Deluxe Wagon, 1950 Willys Jeepster convertible, 1957 Jaguar XK 140 roadster, and his 1932 Chevy fire truck.

"I drive at least one of the cars every day," says Burt Staniar. "They're perfect for the Cape. The fire engine is in the Fourth of July parades, filled with many of our nine grandchildren."

