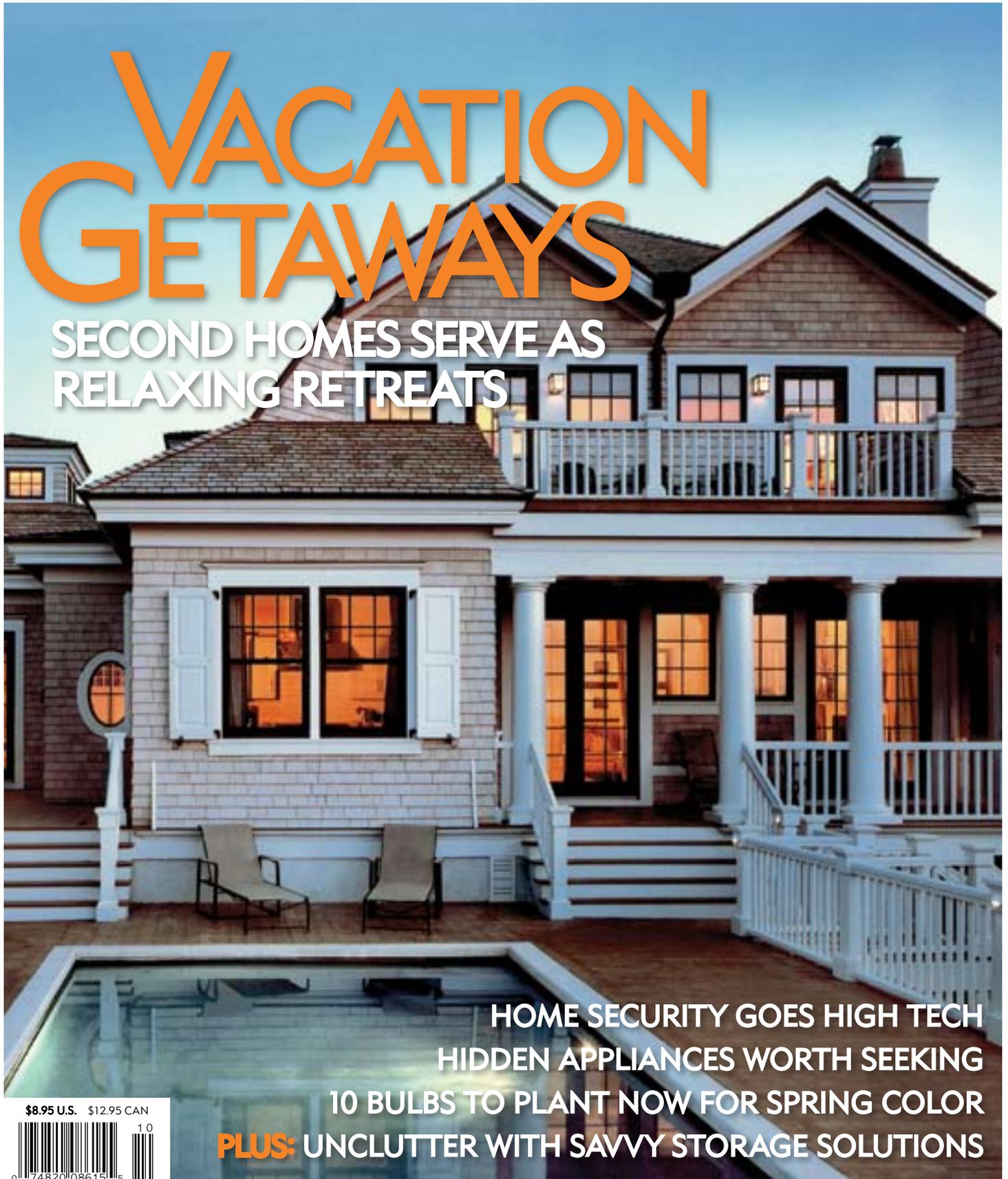


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Although only a few blocks from the ocean, this home's design is centered on the bordering bay.

Bay-Side Beauty

With casual elegance, this Nantucket-style family retreat boasts a strong connection to the view beyond its doors.

BY FRAN THOMAS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM CRANE



Because the front of the home faces the harbor, entering through the front door situated toward the side allows one to see directly through the house to the beautiful bay. (Opposite top) The home's living room, connected to the kitchen on the second floor, is painted a cheery yellow. Paneled windows allow ample sunlight, and French doors lead to the deck overlooking the harbor. (Opposite bottom) Windows and a screened porch along the front of the home connect the home to the waterfront vistas and contribute to the home's striking night glow.



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The soothing sound of lapping water and the balmy brush of sea breezes envelop you at this gracious bay-side home. Facing Blue Fish Harbor in Avalon, an island off the southern coast of New Jersey, the home's design is centered on the bay. Cedar-shake clad, the vacation retreat is appropriately outfitted with the primary elements that evoke thoughts of a Nantucket or Cape Cod seaside residence—from the shingled siding, white-trimmed exterior to the open, casual interior. After spending summers growing up along the coast, one of the homeowners knew she wanted her three sons to have the same experience. Residents of Philadelphia, the couple purchased the 3,500-square-foot shore residence six years ago to serve as their second home. To accommodate both their family and guests, they purchased the lot next door and commissioned Paul A. Kiss, AIA, principal of Olivieri, Shousky & Kiss, P.A., to enlarge the dwelling. Nearly doubled to 6,000 square feet, the abode now contains six bedrooms, four bathrooms, and an extra powder room.





After Allison Forbes, principal of Forbes Design Consultants, designed their primary residence 15 years ago, the homeowners knew they wanted her to make this home just as perfect. With Forbes, Kiss, and Don Minder of D.L. Miner Construction working closely together, the team was able to integrate the old and new portions of the home. “The biggest challenge was to blend the original with the addition seamlessly on the exterior and interior while maintaining the economics of renovating the original home rather than starting over with a new house,” says Kiss.

The original home, only one year old when the family bought the property, was built as a spec home, so nearly all the exterior and interior finishes needed upgrading. “We took a lot of the existing millwork off the initial home and elaborated on it ... With the hardwood floors through the existing home and reset

through the new, you can’t tell the old from the new,” says Forbes.

Designed to accommodate shore-side activities of an active family, the home is ideal for vacations and weekend getaways. With the harbor as their front yard, the family can easily go boating and jet skiing. “The first floor entertainment area flows all along the bay side, which allows for wide, open views and a feeling of openness,” says Kiss.

On cool evenings, the family opens all the doors facing the harbor to allow briny breezes to flow into the home. “There really isn’t a definition between the inside and outside,” says Forbes. “The home is about being on the bay. It’s an outdoor space that is really recreated from the indoor space.

“Because they want to have family and friends stay for long periods of time, this house is really geared toward entertaining,” says



Pine adjoined to the great room’s hearth complements the cocktail table and accent pieces, making the room a more casual alternative to the upstairs living room. (Opposite) Linked to the porch and bay through French doors, the great room works well for entertaining.

Connected to the game room and great room, the billiards room includes a window bench seat for those not partaking in a game of pool. A coffered ceiling defines the space. (Opposite) Clad in white paneling, one of the boys' rooms is decorated with a nautical color scheme and accessories.



Forbes. If one doesn't want to take a refreshing dip in the pool, extensive decking allows space for seating areas outside, while a billiards room and game area allow indoor activities. The game area features a built-in computer space for online games and a square, expandable table that can accommodate up to eight players for board games.

On the second floor, decks off the living room and master suite and a screened-in porch off the kitchen further connect the interior with the exterior. With sitting and dining areas, "the screened porch extends the living space out to the bay and allows outside entertaining, even if bugs are bad," says Kiss. When the doors are open, "the screened-in porch is connected to the kitchen, and it feels like one space," says Forbes.

With a relaxing interior color palette that resembles the soothing tones of sand, there is a continuity and flow throughout the home.

Shades of soft yellow and sepia brown reoccur on the first floor. In the family room, game room, and billiards room, all the fabrics and wood details on the furniture follow from one space to the next. Even the drapery features the same simplified pattern across the rooms. The three rooms, although connected, can be closed off with French doors and sidelights for noise control and visual separation. "We were able to pull the spaces together, but they do architecturally feel like three separate spaces," says Forbes.

To bring in the Nantucket and Cape Cod feeling the homeowners desired, Forbes incorporated a slew of architectural details. Brackets underneath soffited ceilings, large crown molding, and beaded board at various heights in the children's bedrooms contribute aesthetically. Oak hardwood floors and the placement of sisal rugs throughout the home maintain the feeling. White, 3-inch-wide,



The kitchen, painted yellow with an amber glaze on the cabinets, flows into the living room area. This allows groups in the two spaces to interact with each other, as well as with those on the adjacent screened porch.

The limestone dressing the floors and around the master bathroom tub is accented by a mosaic tile rug, created with opalescent glass tiles and limestone. (Opposite) Deep blue bedding, flooring, and window treatments pop against the clean, white walls of the master bedroom. Mahogany furniture adds richness to the space.



plantation-style shutters complete the scene.

Upstairs lies the living room, kitchen, a guest room, and the master suite, which contains a comfortable sitting area for all-day enjoyment. The walls of the connected living room and kitchen are painted a cheery yellow with soft amber glazing on the cabinets. “Yellow might not have been the homeowner’s first choice for their primary home, but she really loved it and wanted to do it for a secondary residence,” says Forbes.

The kitchen features beaded inset cabinets to emphasize the home’s casualness. A food prepping island is topped with teak butcher block, while the entertainment island and perimeter cabinetry boast honed Ubatuba granite.

A variation from the warm tones throughout the home, the master bedroom suite has clean, white walls and accessories, contrasted by deep blue bedding and rugs; dark mahogany wood

enriches the space. In the master bath, luxurious limestone is combined with calming aqua blue glass tiles—the color reminiscent of opalescent beach glass naturally honed by sand—to complement the coastal appeal. The aqua tiles serve as accents in the mosaic rug Forbes designed in the center of the room.

Between the shower and toilet area, a cherry wood bench with a terry cloth seat and built-in storage provides a place to lounge or to hang towels. For added style, Forbes designed the eye-catching, granite-topped vanities to look like old chests of drawers rather than traditional bathroom cabinetry.

With all the love and attention to detail that went into creating the welcoming retreat, to the homeowners, it is more than just a vacation or second home. “The hope is that they’re going to have their grandchildren here,” says Forbes. “This is a house for them forever.”