

COME TOGETHER

A HOUSE OF DISPARATE PARTS ATTAINS HARMONY AS IT WELCOMES NEW OWNERS TO MASSACHUSETTS'S MARBLEHEAD NECK

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Interior Design by **TERRAT ELMS INTERIOR DESIGN** • *Architecture by* **MARGOLIS + FISHMAN**



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A ROUND WINDOW looks into the wine room from the great room. The space expresses a rustic, light personality with an eyebrow window (FACING PAGE), white wood shutters, white lapstrake walls, "beach grass" carpet, and a wood-and-steel coffee table. The bentwood chairs, a modern take on a beloved classic, have just enough bounce.







FIRST, THERE WAS A SIMPLE TWO-STORY Cape, built in the 1960s at the end of the causeway that leads across Deveraux Beach to Marblehead Neck. The house itself was unassuming, but the Atlantic Ocean lapped against 425 feet of private beach frontage in the backyard, and the views looked toward the Boston skyline. Then, in the 1980s, the addition of a two-story great room nearly doubled the size of the house. The next addition, placed beside the great room, consisted of a new kitchen and an upstairs master bedroom suite. Living space above the garage, last in the string of additions, brought the house to its present size, nearly 5,600 square feet.

Though spacious, the house was an awkward assemblage of rooms. “None of the added pieces related to what was already there,” says Dee Elms of Terrat Elms Interior Design of Boston, who with her partner Andrew Terrat worked to make the house more coher-

THE KITCHEN'S WHITE and earth-toned color scheme is enlivened with bright red walls. Comfortable seating, such as counter stools and the built-in banquette, is designed with guests in mind. The small desk area (BELOW) at one end of the kitchen is centrally located just off the great room at the foot of the back stairs.



ent. "It was hard to get from the parking area to the front door. We took four different additions and made them go together."

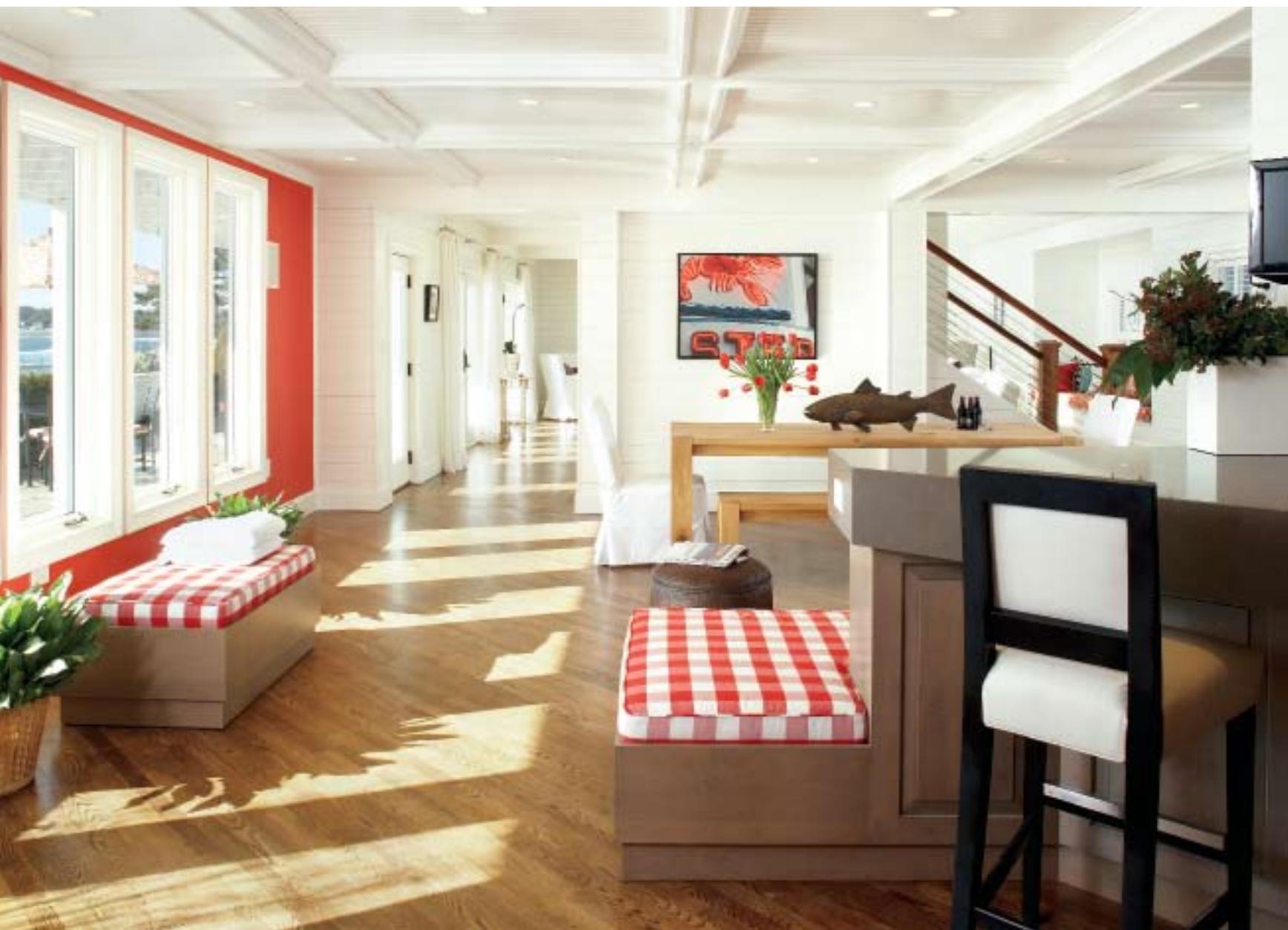
The two designers came to the project via Bang & Olufsen, the company known for its sleek consumer audio and video equipment. The new audiophile owner, who bought the property as a vacation home, asked his Bang & Olufsen dealer to help him find design expertise. Elms and Terrat, in turn, engaged Cambridge, Massachusetts, architectural firm Margolis+Fishman; working as a team, they introduced coherence, style, and flow. "This house welcomes everyone driving across the causeway to Marblehead Neck," Terrat says. "We wanted the facade to blend into the neighborhood and look more like the older Shingle-style houses on the Neck." To this end, they installed a new entry porch and an eyebrow window, and they shingled the exterior.

A graded, redesigned yard made the front door accessible for the first time in years.

The previously unused foyer is now a dramatic yet lighthearted entry with limestone flooring, grass-cloth-paneled walls, and a hefty black metal chandelier. "It looks like an old barrel," Elms says. "We softened the formality and created a beach-house feeling. When you continue into the hallway, the first room you look into is what we called the cabana room: You look right out to the ocean."

The hall leads to the great room, the physical and functional center of the house. This two-story space is where the owner enjoys his audio gear and where the family gathers. The new eyebrow window not only brings light into the large room but also provides a peek at Marblehead Harbor from the bridge that connects the old master bedroom on the second floor of the orig-

THE KITCHEN DINING area flows into the great room beyond the back staircase, which Terrat Elms Interior Design finished with slender mahogany handrails and steel cables. Doors and windows open to expansive ocean views. An antique wire birdcage (RIGHT) makes an unexpected focal point on a chest in the now constantly used front hall.







A PAIR OF WHITE marble sinks in the master bath are separated by an inset dressing table. The wallpaper reflects the homeowner's penchant for retro and red. The view from the master bedroom (FACING PAGE) is straight out to the ocean.

inal Cape to the new master suite above the kitchen.

“To add texture and cohesion,” Terrat says, “we lined the walls and the ceiling with shiplap. Throughout the house, we lightened the walls and darkened the wood floors.”

Three supporting steel beams intersected the room at a height of 8 feet. “They cut the big, open room in half,” says architect Ron Margolis of the awkward construction. So, in the process of rebuilding the room, he eliminated them. “We restructured the roof so that the beams were no longer necessary to hold it together. Those beams also helped to support the bridge, which we reinforced with steel-and-laminate beams.”

On the bridge and the staircase, heavy wood balustrades were replaced with steel cables topped by a slender mahogany handrail. For window treatments, Terrat and Elms opted for white-painted wooden shutters on the street side of the house. “They look great in the great room as well as in the kitchen,” Terrat says. “In fact, we thought the kitchen was awfully dark, so we added a bank of windows above the sink counter. Since it’s a vacation house, we thought the owners could do with fewer upper cabinets in exchange for more light.”

The new kitchen cabinets reflect the house’s informal spirit, with shiplap-inspired panels and a distressed white paint finish. There is no formal dining room; a Parsons table and its matching bench at one end of the kitchen provide lots of room for large meals. Countertops are white Calcutta marble, which is also used on part of the center island. The white room is enlivened with fire-engineered accents on the walls and built-in banquettes. Upstairs, too, red is the single accent for otherwise white rooms that open to the sea and the sky.

The view and the footprint of the house are the same, but in this calm and coherent interior, everything is different. ■



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A Little More Conversation

The kitchen that Dee Elms and Andrew Terrat designed is all about entertaining. “They collect fine wines and love to have friends over to sample them,” says Terrat of the owners. A structural upright post anchors the kitchen island and its built-in seating area at the center of the room. Under the counter, the island has integrated storage for both red and white wines; a separate wine room holds the bulk of the owner’s large collection. A generous L-shaped banquette, colorful pillows scattered atop its red-and-white-checked cushion, adjoins one side of the island. There is a twin upholstered bench across

from it, in front of the ocean-facing windows. Hidden storage in the bases of the banquette and bench make them doubly practical. Opposite the banquette, a fireplace with a television mounted above the mantel is flanked by two upholstered chairs — perfect for enjoying a glass of red on cool fall evenings. The informal dining table is also nearby, creating a large area that’s ideal for guests who want to sit and chat as well as for those who prefer to circulate. “This is not a chef’s kitchen,” Elms says and smiles. “This is a kitchen laid out for conversation and passing the cheese.”