

# SHORESIDE VIBES

A beautifully renovated former inn becomes a resplendent retreat for a large extended family.

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ERT Architects and builder MJ Nardone maintained the historic visage of the home to remain true to the neighborhood aesthetic.

Not everyone who saw the grand, rambling old inn in downtown Chatham would have imagined that it could be transformed into a spacious and impressive family home. But luckily for the new owners of this circa 1877 property on Cross Street, ERT Architects, Inc., MJ Nardone Building & Remodeling and Jennifer Perini Interior Design shared their vision and delivered amazing results.

“Our client was looking for a multigenerational vacation property,” says Erik Tolley, architect/principal at ERT. “They wanted to accommodate the entire family in a home filled with all the typical amenities for vacationing grandparents, parents and kids.”

Built originally as a single-family home, the house was turned into an inn sometime in the 20th century. When the clients purchased the property, the interior was a warren of small rooms, which they hoped to expand. They also wanted a large number of bedrooms, each with its own bath. The resulting floor plan made the house much more conducive to today’s lifestyles, with an expansive kitchen, more open-plan living space, and nine bedrooms with en suite baths between the main house and the carriage house.



Tones of blue and off-white add to the coastal vibe of this multigenerational summer house.





The home was redesigned to accommodate the busy summer comings and goings of a large family.



The renovation opened up the interior yet retained the livable essence of the circa 1877 home. Below, an outdoor dining deck overlooks the expansive pool area.



“This was a total renovation, and we had to be mindful of the historic nature of the house,” says Tolley. “When you’re dealing with such a home, the intent is to try to honor and preserve the historic integrity of the existing structure.” He says they worked collaboratively with Chatham’s zoning board and the historic district commission, arriving at an ideal solution. “We did some careful negotiating, and what you see now is a product of that diligent process.” Tolley feels that the subtle and modest additions that were made to the exterior are in keeping with both the historical nature of the house and the historical context of the surrounding neighborhood.

### MESHING NEW WITH OLD

Aside from some small exterior additions, the outside envelope stayed relatively unchanged. Inside was another story. “It was a total gut renovation,” says Mike Nardone, the builder on the project. “Obviously, it was a very old house, so everything got changed on the interior, which was pretty challenging structurally.” Nardone, who is the president of MJ Nardone, says they needed to take everything apart to open up the space, even moving the staircases. “We had to make the new construction techniques and the old construction techniques mesh.”



Even though it was challenging, an overhaul of a building is Nardone's favorite kind of project. "I actually like the type of job where I have to be there all the time when something comes up just about every day, and we're adjusting throughout," he says. "It is nice to have a client that is approachable and involved. I like the one-on-one and being able to listen to them and try to make their dreams a reality."

Having worked with Tolley and ERT for decades also made the process more streamlined and enjoyable. "Eric and I have done hundreds of projects together over the years, so we're on the same page a lot of the time." The two companies' offices are near each other, which allows for a constant give and take of ideas, from planning to design to construction. "It makes the process seamless."

### SPECIFIC SPACES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

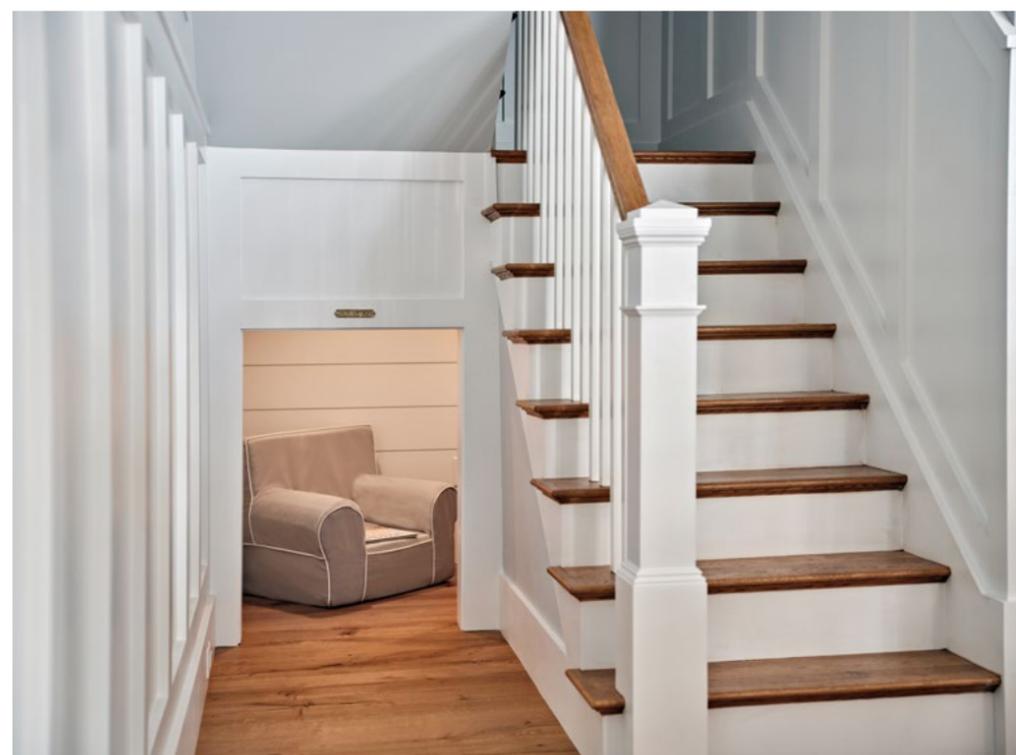
A third professional in the mix was interior designer Jennifer Perini, who has collaborated with both ERT and Nardone on many other projects. "I knew the house was going to be used by multiple generations of the family, so I wanted to make the specific spaces for kids, adults and older adults each have a different feel," says Perini. She gives the example of the living room, which is bright and airy and open to the family room, versus the den, which feels more intimate.



"I thought to make that smaller space a bit moodier, with a deep-green wall color, because after a day out in the bright sunshine, it'd be nice to have a darker room to relax in in the evening." The cozy room still feels summery, with lemon-print pillows and dashes of bright color, but it provides a quieter space to retreat to, away from the hubbub of a bustling vacation home.



Interior designer Jennifer Perini chose a dark and soothing green for the walls of a small sitting room to offset the brightness of the home's beach town location.





The dedicated area for younger members of the family is cozy and colorful.

Architect  
**ERT Architects**  
[ertarchitects.com](http://ertarchitects.com)

Builder  
**MJ Nardone Building & Remodeling**  
[mjnardone.com](http://mjnardone.com)

Fence  
**Bennett Fence & Arbor**  
[bennettfence.com](http://bennettfence.com)

Interior Designer & Stylist  
**Jennifer Perini Interior Design**  
[jenniferperini.com](http://jenniferperini.com)

Landscaping  
**Mitchell Landscape Construction**  
[mitchelllandscapeconstruction.com](http://mitchelllandscapeconstruction.com)

Tile  
**Turek Tile**  
[turektile.com](http://turektile.com)

Pool  
**Shoreline Pools, Inc.**  
[shorelinepoolsinc.com](http://shorelinepoolsinc.com)

Upstairs, a more lively space is dedicated to the younger members of the family. Tolley says that the third floor was a little bit of a bonus space that was fun to design. "When my clients acquired the property, that level was unfinished, so we completed the third story of the house and tucked nice bunks into the eaves, and added the bathroom. It ended up being a perfect spot for kids to hang and all be together in one space away from the parents and grandparents."

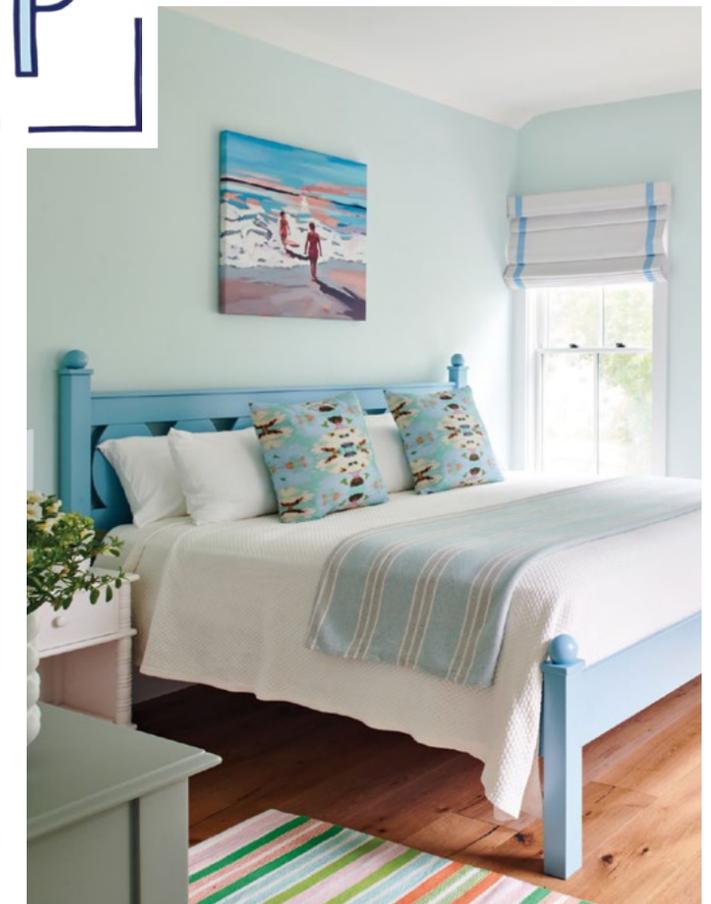
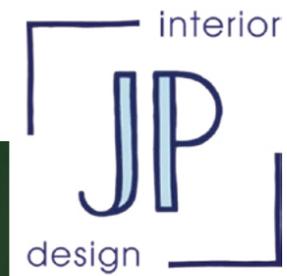
### SHARKS, PIRATES AND WHIMSICAL TOUCHES

Perini opted for bright primary colors for the fabrics and finishes in the kids' bunk room and adjoining bathroom. She also sourced a thematically appropriate movie poster. "Chatham and sharks just go together, so I immediately thought of adding a *Jaws* poster to the decor." Another child-focused spot in the home is an under-stair cubby. "There's a little alcove underneath the stairs, and it was the client's idea to use it in some kind of fun way," says Perini. "I found

a child-sized stuffed chair and added a little emblem that says 'pirates' over the miniature doorway. It was a little whimsical touch, which I know visiting kids will love and remember."

Not everything magical was planned for the interior or just for kids. The outdoor patio and pool area is an entertaining oasis with numerous lounges and chairs, a fire pit and an outdoor grilling center. Nardone worked with Mitchell Landscape Construction to facilitate both the hardscape and greenery, and Tolley's design for the eating porch and the carriage house to open out to the pool means every visiting family member has easy access to the exterior fun.

It took both imagination and might, but the combined efforts of the architect, the builder and the interior designer mean the clients now have a spectacular and conveniently located Chatham summer home. "We were all really pleased with the results," says Tolley, "and the owners are very, very happy." ▲



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