

# SMALL SPACES, BIG IDEAS

A historic bungalow is  
reimagined in the Old Village



BY CAROL K. DUMAS

PHOTOS BY SABRINA COLE QUINN PHOTOGRAPHY

A painting by Cape Cod artist Paul Schulenburg anchors the living room that opens to the stunning view of Chatham Inlet in the historic Captain John Hammond Jr. house.





Balancing historic preservation with modern living is a challenge for any architect and interior designer, but it's a task that SV Design handled with sensitivity and creativity at the Captain John Hammond Jr. House. SV Design teamed up with a local contractor, Monomoy Real Estate and Construction, to renovate the home.

The 1904 bungalow, originally designed for use as a summer house in the early years of tourism, sits just two houses down from Chatham Light in the town's Old Village Historic District. The Hammond family built a number of houses in the area, and this shingle-style modified gambrel was tucked into a narrow lot along a row of homes from mixed historical eras, with backyards that overlook Chatham inlet and the Atlantic beyond.

In 2019, the current owners purchased the 1,800-square-foot house and the 230-square-foot cottage behind it. The husband grew up in town and had an affinity for preserving Chatham's architectural

heritage and a strong distaste for the "McMansions" being built over the years. The owners wanted to preserve as much of the old architectural features as possible, while seeking to infuse the dark, outdated interior with more light and an open layout to accommodate a modern family's lifestyle.

"It was really important for all of us to keep the street living-side as it was," said Leslie Schneeberger, the principal architect for the project. "The biggest item inside on the clients' checklist was to maximize the space and make it very light and usable."

All new elements and details were designed "to be appropriate to the language and architecture at the time the home was originally constructed," says Schneeberger.

First, the house itself needed some shoring-up. Ambrose Homes lifted the house from its rickety brick piers, moved it forward on rails and then placed it back on a solid foundation. One of the most



This handsome dining table, crafted from a single slab of walnut, was made by Wellfleet furniture maker Jeff Soderbergh. Right: Black mist granite countertops contrast with white Shaker-style cabinetry in the kitchen, which opens to the family room, below.







interesting decisions was to rotate the entire building slightly to better align with the property's lot lines. This shift created a walking path to the home's entry door and the back lawn and a more usable driveway with a conveniently tucked-in mudroom entry.

In addition, the cottage's stability was ensured with new helical pilings. The exterior retains its traditional clapboard facade, but rigid insulation was added to the exterior to achieve more energy efficiency without needing to fill the exposed framing bays with insulation and cover with drywall.

A classic red was chosen for exterior doors. A subtle starfish motif accents a red screen door fabricated by Seaport Shutter Company at the main entrance.

Inside, the entire first floor was opened up. Gone are the small windows and enclosed spaces. While there



was a sliding glass door at the back wall, Schneeberger and her team expanded the rear view even further with "gliding" glass doors that take up the entire back wall and let in the dramatic ocean view. The home's original structural beams were left exposed in the living room.

The kitchen, designed by White Wood Kitchens, is minimalist: white, Shaker-style lower cabinets are topped with jet mist granite and with custom floating shelves above to display dishes. A gray-blue kitchen island provides more storage and seating. There's no formal dining room, but a cozy, window-lit corner featuring

Wellfleet furniture maker Jeff Soderbergh's banquette table crafted from a single slab of a walnut, with a blackened steel base.

"We developed a 'Cape Cod' palette—lots of blue and white with some pops of color—and we also pulled in



Built-in storage, featuring whimsical whale tale drawer pulls, creates a cozy and efficient space in the guest bedroom. Below left: Custom-made bunk beds are perfect for younger members of the family. The custom bathroom vanity was made of reclaimed chestnut.





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rustic elements, rich woods and some metals, as the owners liked that industrial-modern look,” says senior project manager Lindsay Moore, who was in charge of the interior design, décor and furnishings.

The clients accompanied Moore on shopping trips for decorative accessories from local sources, including The Chatham Home and The Mayflower Shop. Simpler Pleasures in Chatham made the custom curtains and Roman shades. MFM Interiors of Truro fabricated the dining area’s banquette cushions, the mudroom’s bench-seat cushions and the headboard in the cottage.

The mix of textures, natural fibers and a sea-sand-sky palette play off against white walls throughout the home, creating a calm, relaxing space.

The full basement addition allowed the owners to gain some usable, finished space, including a media room and bath.

“The use of built-ins for an eat-in nook, bunk beds, the bed frames and storage elements provide a compact, clean and comfortable use of space, maintaining the feel of a low-maintenance summer home,” says Moore.

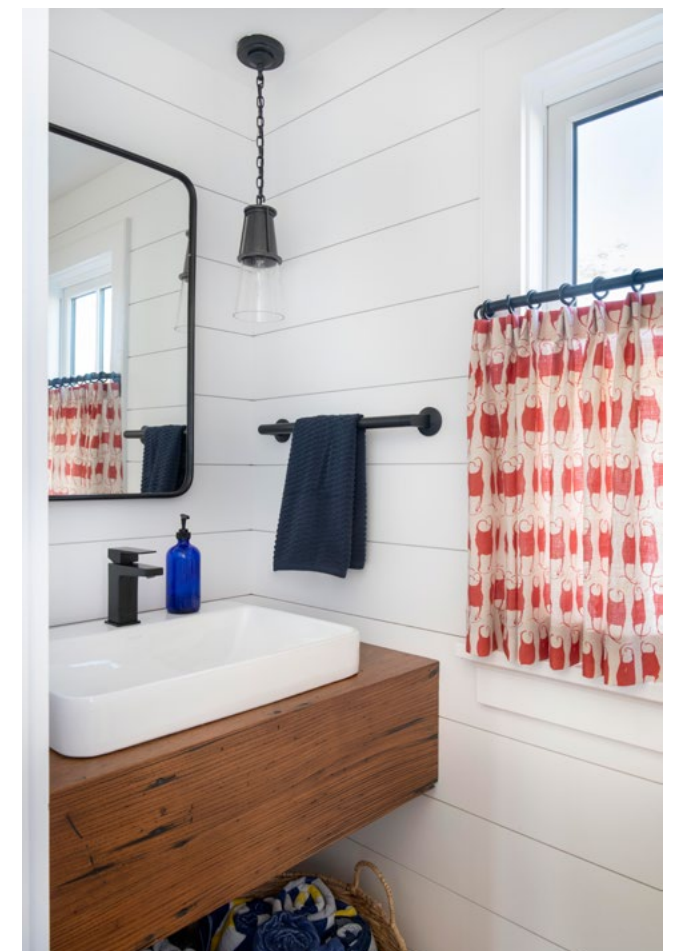
A second-floor balcony was added while the main deck was enlarged.

The shell of the little cottage was kept intact. But like the main house, the interior was opened up and brightened. Moore envisioned the space as a writer’s retreat and added a custom desk. “With the limited amount of space,” says Moore, “we designed a built-in dresser that has a pullout tray for a laptop—a dual function piece with views toward the water.

“My favorite moment was visiting the home and seeing a multigenerational gathering comfortably enjoying the spaces we created,” says Moore. “I really loved that.” ▲



A red exterior door, from Seaport Shutter Company, gives a pop of color to the cedar-shingled façade that will weather over time. Right: A half bath features a unique custom-made vanity and beadboard walls.







## RESOURCE GUIDE

### Addison Art Gallery

43 South Orleans Road, Orleans  
508-255-6200  
[addisonart.com](http://addisonart.com)

### Ambrose Homes

217 Underpass Road, Brewster  
774-216-4118  
2766 Route 6, Wellfleet  
508-349-8252  
[ambrosehomes.com](http://ambrosehomes.com)

### The Chatham Home

443 Main St., Chatham  
508-945-5562  
[thechathamhome.com](http://thechathamhome.com)

### Design No. 5

Cotuit  
[designnofive.com](http://designnofive.com)

### Jenick Studio

88 Route 6A, Unit 2B, Sandwich  
508-477-1346  
[jenickstudio.com](http://jenickstudio.com)

### The Mayflower Shop

475 Main St., Chatham  
508-945-0065  
[themayflowershop.com](http://themayflowershop.com)

### MFM Interiors

8 Truro Center Road, Truro  
508-349-7764  
[mfmint.com](http://mfmint.com)

### Monomoy Real Estate & Construction

101 Depot Road, Chatham  
508-945-0460  
[monomoyrc.com](http://monomoyrc.com)

### The Munson Gallery

[munsongallery.com](http://munsongallery.com)

### Seaport Shutter Company

1714 Main St., Brewster  
508-896-8900  
[seaportshutter.com](http://seaportshutter.com)

### Simpler Pleasures

433 Main St., Chatham  
508-945-4040  
[simplerpleasures.com](http://simplerpleasures.com)

### SV Design

693 Main St., Chatham  
508-348-5485  
[svdesign.com](http://svdesign.com)

### Jeff Soderbergh

(furniture maker)  
11 West Main St., Wellfleet  
401-845-9087  
[jeffsoderbergh.com](http://jeffsoderbergh.com)

### White Wood Kitchens

160 Route 6A, Sandwich  
774-413-5065  
[whitewoodkitchen.com](http://whitewoodkitchen.com)

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