

DIGS DESIGN APPLIES AN ELEGANT TOUCH TO AN EDGARTOWN OASIS

# CAPE COD HOME

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GETTING READY FOR  
THE SEASON AHEAD!

PROJECT INSPIRATION  
FOR HOME AND  
GARDEN



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The Valle Group succeeds in creating a high performance home that will provide generations of happiness.

*Photo by Dan Cutrona*



### on the cover

Interior designer Cathy Kert provides a sense of arrival at this East Dennis home.

*Photo by Michael J. Lee*



# THE IN BETWEEN

This season of transition is absolutely my favorite time of year. I know most Cape Codders (and washashores) tend to look forward to the “Second Summer” experienced in these parts during the temperate fall months. Yet, for me each day that time of year is a reminder of the diminishment of the year. In the spring and early summer, there is such a feeling of re-birth, renewal and hope. It is all about looking forward.

In this issue we bring you a variety of stories from homeowners who have made thoughtful decisions as they consider how they want to enjoy their home on the Cape and Islands, and with whom. Our cover story examines a project interior designer Cathy Kert accomplished for lucky homeowners a stone's throw from Sesuit Harbor. Step into their world on page 42. Jocelyn Chiappone, owner of Digs Design in Newport had a memorable time creating an Edgartown home for an active family with three teenaged daughters who were thrilled to be involved in the home's design. See how Chiappone balanced it all to an impressive outcome on page 56.

Courtney Brunelle, owner of House of Coco Interiors brought us an interesting project that presumably many individuals encounter: what to do with the inherited items that don't meld with your preferred design sense. Brunelle transformed a homeowner's parents' dark, dated home into a light-filled cozy retreat—now full of her memories of the happy times they all shared. Enjoy that story on page 72.

The Valle Group in Falmouth has built a reputation not only for fine home building, but also for being a leader in the high-performance home space. On page 64 we bring you a thorough understanding of how today's options and technologies can create a home that is healthier for the inhabitants as well as Mother Earth. JB Robbie Custom Homes in Duxbury gave some

thought to the future as they transitioned to their Harwich Port home on a year-round basis. The addition of a pool house and luxurious backyard has created the perfect overflow space for their growing family of adult children. Jump into that story on page 40.

Interior designer Trevor Fulmer and his husband found a tiny condominium in Provincetown that is now a big home for them due to their design choices. The spare space has been thoughtfully considered down to the inch and the modest outdoor deck is the toast of their friends every summer. Check out Fulmer's smart and savvy design on page 80.

ZEN Associates, a very unique firm that offers landscape design, interior design and landscape architecture, created an outdoor oasis for a multi-generational family in Marstons Mills. Take a tour of one of the most unique and interesting projects we have ever covered on page 48.

Our *Mastering the Trade* series continues with a discussion with Rob McPhee, a second-generation builder of homes that are destined to become generational legacies. His insight into the Cape building industry and what it takes to build a business that continues to set the standard. Meet Rob on page 96.

Whether you prefer this season or perhaps another, I hope the year continues to unfold in a positive and productive way for you and those you hold dear.

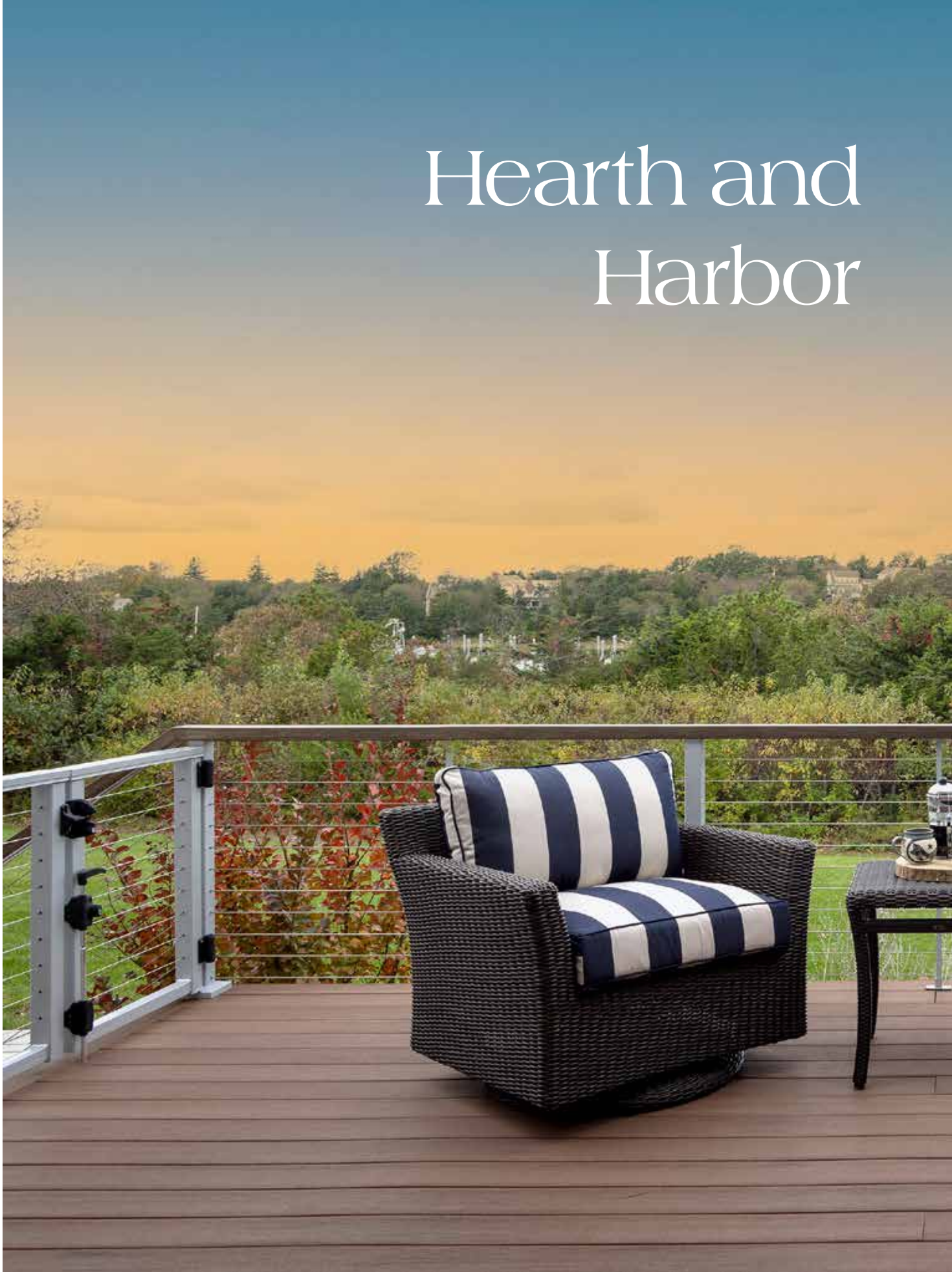
Cheers!



Julie Craven Wagner  
Associate Publisher, Cape Cod Life Publications



# Hearth and Harbor





Cathy Kert Interiors teams up with Oman Construction Company to reimagine a family's multi-generational home in Dennis.

By Leslie Hatton

Photos by Michael J. Lee







**D**etermined to create a haven where their grown children and grandchildren could gather and create new memories for years to come, the homeowners of a picturesque property nestled into Sesuit Harbor in Dennis, made the bold decision to tear down the original residence and build anew. The area holds a special place in their hearts as they had spent countless summers with their children exploring and enjoying Cold Storage Beach in Dennis. They made the decision to secure their own slice of Cape paradise and enlisted the help of experienced realtor Lisa Steele. When they saw the harbor compound Steele introduced, they knew immediately it would be the perfect spot for their future generations to continue the decades-long love affair with Cape Cod— and made an offer on the spot. They lived in the original home for years, trying to fit into and adjust around its idiosyncrasies and shortcomings, but with the major structural alterations it required, and the ever-growing need for more space for their expanding family, starting with a clean slate was the wisest choice. Longtime Cape resident and fourth generation builder, Eric Oman of Oman Construction Company had worked with the family since they purchased the property and had established a relationship of trust and appreciation. “The owner gave me carte blanche and trusted me to get the job done,” Oman recalls, “My team and I did everything from trim details and interior finishes. This was the first time I had worked with Cathy Kert who brought her expertise to the project; how she incorporated all the exceptional colors that were used was really her forte. She was a lot of fun and very easy to work with.”

For the homeowners, the biggest line item on their wishlist for the newly imagined 5,800 square foot home was to have unique and separate spaces for family and friends to spread out, ensuring sure their time visiting was truly relaxing. Oman says, “There were so many successes in this project—one being that despite it taking place during COVID, it actually allowed us to have a dedicated crew who were only working on that one home. The way we were able to spread everyone out and work outside throughout the large parcel of land worked to our advantage and helped move the timeline along.” Oman and his team were able to execute the plan for the home despite the surrounding circumstances, transforming the original spaces into more livable, workable zones. “Now, with the house redesigned in this way, you could all be together if you choose, or you could go to another part of the house to relax and be away from the hoopla! We were able to make that flow very

nicely so you can be isolated but you also don’t feel isolated,” the builder reflects.

Stepping into the kitchen/dining area is an exquisite experience by all accounts. In the combined space, the warmth of the home meets the serenity of the sea as the harbor view wraps around the back of the home. The light peeks in and casts a glow over the warm oak wood cabinets, quartz countertops and the flooring, custom made of alternating 8 and 6 inch wide white oak, in a stained pecan. With every meal and gathering, guests are treated to a view of the bustling harbor during the summer months and a serene, but no less picturesque, watery canvas in the off-season. Oman exclaims, “The kitchen/dining room has the best view of the harbor and there’s so much activity there, it’s really beautiful. The kitchen presented us with challenges in that a lot of the cabinets are freestanding and every cabinet drawer and door is wired for lighting. But it’s worth it. When you pull them out, they illuminate, and







make for such an interesting feature.” Kert worked closely with Becky Stolz, kitchen and bath designer at Mid-Cape Home Centers to create a unique hub for the family set against the backdrop of the property’s natural surrounding beauty. Counter stools in a deep warm tone from Circle Furniture and conical shade pendants from Hubbardton Forge that resemble an early blooming tulip, provide modern touches.

Each of the home’s bathrooms, five full and two half, are distinctive, which Kert and designer Christine Bernier of Tile Showcase, located in the Boston Design Center, designed together. Hard pressed to pinpoint a favorite, Kert enjoyed selecting colorful vanities from powder blue to lavender, bold colors not often seen, and creating colorful tiled niches within the home’s bathtubs—for rubber ducks or body wash—for the family’s grandchildren of varying ages. Adventurous and stylish wallpapers from Thibaut adorn several of the home’s powder rooms, whether metallic gold sunburst shapes on an aqua background or a multitude of vibrant seashells, the

trendy and timeless designs chosen by Kert keep things fun in the multi-generational home.

The modern decks around the exterior supply an open invitation for the family to gather and not only bask in the breathtaking vistas of the harbor, but to sit and watch the children below play on the sport court. Evoking a sense of nostalgia, the crack of a plastic whiffle ball bat brings back memories of simple and pure summer times for the whole family. The sounds of laughter and friendly competition waft up to the swivel deck chairs, from Summer Classics, sourced through CKI (Cathy Kert Interiors, Kert's proprietary line) and are deep and wide enough to curl up alone with a book, or to hold two cousins. Both Oman and Kert denote the quality decking material supplied from Mid-Cape Home Centers, with whom Oman has had a long-standing rapport in his decades of building high-caliber Cape Cod homes. Blending luxury and comfort with a quintessential Cape Cod panorama outside, this reinvented haven on the harbor offers this family a piece of coastal paradise. Their only issue? Not having enough summer weekends. 🏠

*Leslie Hatton is the assistant editor for Cape Cod Life Publications.*

