

New England HOME

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Cape
&
Islands

SUMMER
State of Mind



A gabled roof created the opportunity for a cathedral ceiling in the living area of this Nantucket compound. Flecks of black in the Symfonia chenille rug reflect the black window frames and fireplace. **FACING PAGE:** At the basement level, the staircase culminates in a "fun space" outfitted with a sprawling daybed on an otherwise underutilized landing. Occupants can lay back and look up to the second floor.



Nantucket An enchanting island retreat reflects a sense of place. *Bound*

Text by GAIL RAVGIALA
Photography by READ MCKENDREE/JBSA



At once wild and serene, Nantucket is a world unto itself. Depending on the weather, time of year, and the visitor's state of mind, the island's miles of beaches and bluffs can seem desolate or inspirational. The light is an artist's dream; the misty fog a moody cloak for this "Gray Lady." Whether you are landing by ferry at Steamboat Wharf, sunbathing at Surfside, or picking up produce at Bartlett's Farm, one thing is certain, when you are on Nantucket, you know where you are.

TOP: The gabled roofline, low-contrast fenestration, and utilitarian aspect of the wraparound porch lend a modesty to the main house (center). To the right is the garage/studio. To the left is the wellness pavilion. The landscape of native grasses and shrubs reinforces the sense of place. **LEFT:** A view of the staircase from the glass-walled home office highlights the ribbed ceiling. **FACING PAGE:** Decorative plaster walls tinted with warm neutral tones add another textural element to the living area.



A custom wood dining table seats ten guests with additional space at the adjacent kitchen island. Atelier de Troupe's Tempo chandelier, purposely selected for its slender profile, draws attention without obstructing the view to the dramatic sculptural fireplace in the double-height living room beyond.



That sense of place permeates its architecture as well as its natural habitat. The entire island is a designated historic district, and the powers that be enforce guidelines to assure the built environment reflects its eighteenth- and nineteenth-century oeuvre, whose main theme is simplicity of style.

After thirty years of designing houses

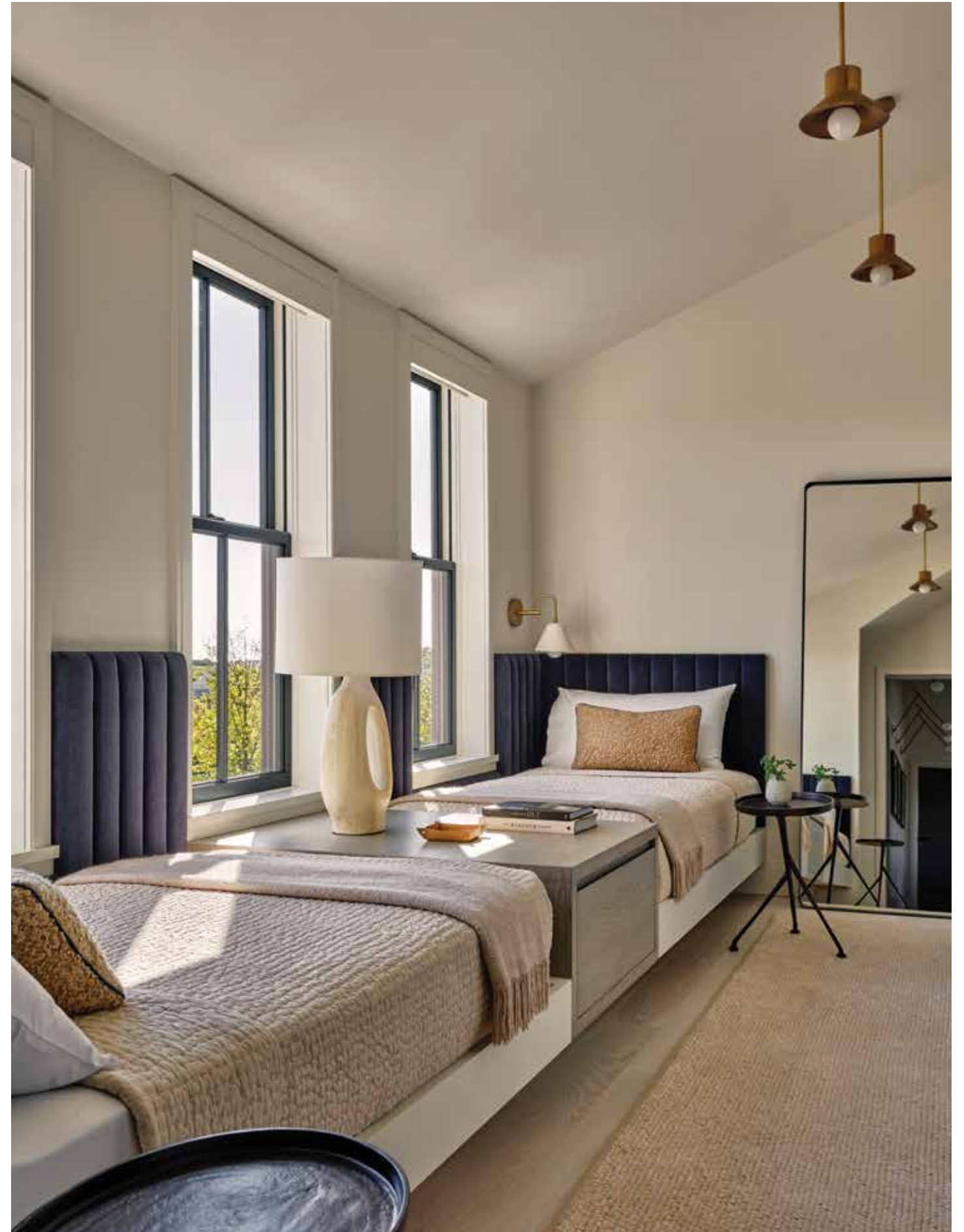
on the island, architect Andrew Kotchen of Workshop/APD fully embraces that reductive approach. Even in Nantucket's heyday as the center of the lucrative whaling industry in the early 1800s, wealthy islanders were partial to the straightforward buildings of the Quakers who dominated the culture at the time.

"It is a style with simple gable forms and

In the kitchen, the Arabescato Corchia marble countertops and backsplash form a backdrop against the ebonized white-oak cabinetry and exhaust hood. **FACING PAGE:** White-oak beams read as ribbing in the ceiling of the hallway that leads from the front door to the dining section of the open-concept living area. Glass doors on the left frame the home office.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: The primary bathroom is lined with travertine, architect Andrew Kotchen's favorite, from Bas Stone. A sitting area at the top of the stairs serves as neutral territory for the adjacent guest suites. The custom headboard in the first-floor primary suite is another source of texture and warmth that designer Nicole Ficano has emphasized in the interior spaces. **FACING PAGE:** The second-floor bunk room is part of a family guest suite and doubles as a hangout space with the twin beds, cushioned by upholstered wall inserts that serve as backrests, providing comfy seating.



The deck of the forty-five-foot-long pool is paved with Goshen stone. "It gives the pool a clean, contemporary yet natural flavor," says landscape designer Miroslava Ahern, who used Caledonia granite for the pool's apron. The wellness pavilion is reflected in the water. It has a serene outdoor patio space used for yoga.



little embellishment," says Kotchen, one that he applied with great success to a residential complex for clients in the seaside village of Siasconset, a.k.a. 'Sconset, on the island's east end. Working with two Nantucket-based contractors, Reid Builders and Miroslava Ahern Landscape Design Studio, who share his deep knowledge and appreciation for the island's heritage, Kotchen's vision

for a home that complemented its surroundings was realized. "This project is very of this place," he says.

The complex consists of a 6,200-square-foot, five-bedroom house, a garage with studio, a wellness pavilion with sauna, and a storage shed. Each structure reflects the simplicity of form and consistency of Nantucket's mandated palette, which Kotchen

describes as "wood, wood, and more wood" in the form of cedar shingles and low-contrast fenestration. Miroslava Ahern took cues from the local oceanfront and vegetation to complete the picture. "I always try to elevate the native aspects of the setting," says Ahern. "Here, I wanted the nearby dunes to expand into the landscape."

The simplicity of style continues inside, but Nicole Ficano, Workshop/APD's director of interiors, deftly used warm tones and textured finishes and textiles to soften the look. Throughout, the walls are finished with a decorative ecru-toned plaster that she describes as seductive. "It makes you want to touch the walls." The focal point of the living room is the fireplace. Molded



in dark charcoal-colored plaster, it soars to the double-height ceiling. “It is a vertical gesture that stands out in the space as a sculptural element,” says Kotchen.

The kitchen is “weaved into the home,” he continues, integrating the ebonized white-oak cabinetry and mill-work into the architecture, essentially framing the space and giving it its own artistic weight while keeping it as part of the whole. Beyond is a long hallway that leads past the stairway, glassed-in

home office, and primary bedroom suite to the front entrance. It is distinguished by a ceiling ribbed with white-oak beams, an effective way to activate the utilitarian space. Necessary? The Quakers might think not, but we definitely approve.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN: Workshop/APD

BUILDER: Reid Builders

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Miroslava Ahern Landscape Design Studio

The cylindrical-shaped sauna next to the pavilion is reached by a stepping-stone path of Caledonia granite. Behind it is an outdoor shower. **FACING PAGE:** An inviting patio has direct access to the living room. The matching Grid Centre Unit Sofas by Gloster provide a conversation area around the outdoor fireplace.

