



Tucked into a quiet Edgartown neighborhood this guest house emphasizes a strong indoor-outdoor flow incorporating the interior with porch, patio and lawn

photo by Steve Pogue

Designing Small Spaces on a Grand Scale

Island Architect Steve Pogue Meets the Challenge With This Edgartown Guest House

by Amelia Smith

Photography by Charlie Utz

Architect Steve Pogue set out to design a summer guest house which would be comfortable in the winter months, too. Per zoning requirements, the guest house has less than 900 square feet of living area, but its height, porch, and landscaping give it a strong presence and a spacious, airy feel. Its street-front facade is unassuming but elegant. A bluestone walkway leads up to the porch and a front door flanked by nautical brass lanterns. Like many of its older neighbors, the house has classic cedar shingles, white trim, and a white-painted brick chimney tipped in black. It fuses New England cottage style

with elements of contemporary California Craftsman design. Steve studied architecture at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. He established his own firm in San Francisco in 1998, and has been living on Martha's Vineyard for more than eight years. "The clients wanted something sort of informal, light, and airy," Steve says. Perhaps the most important aspect of that was emphasizing indoor-outdoor flow. While a traditional Edgartown house keeps most of its life inside, this guesthouse expands onto its outdoor living spaces, the porch, patio, and lawn.

continued on next spread



Using a scale device which relates the height to human proportions, the off-white walls are divided into horizontal zones with beadboard on the lower sections. A paneled hearth-surround frames the granite fireplace at one end. The ceiling reaches twenty feet at its peak.



A covered porch wraps around the house, its smooth, white columns forming a strong visual line. Small hydrangeas and boxwood bushes run along its foot. Around back, there's a patio and an outdoor shower with an enclosed changing area. *Landscape Landscape Construction* designed the garden path, patio, and steps up to the porch as well as the plantings around the house. The porch is a deep threshold between outside and in.

A row of windows and sliding doors link it to the main room. Inside, the ceiling opens up, stretching twenty feet high at its peak. The off-white walls are divided into horizontal zones with beadboard on the lower section of the wall, a scale device which relates the height to human proportions. Many of the house's surfaces are painted, a job done skillfully by *Skipper Painting*. A paneled hearth surround frames the granite fireplace at one end. A couch and two chairs cluster around the hearth in a conversational seating group. A cozy window seat to one side looks out onto the porch and lawn.

The great room also accommodates a dining room and a kitchen, all within 575 square feet. The kitchen is small but well-equipped, ready to serve as a staging area for a serious dinner party. A mahogany-topped seating bar forms the divide between the kitchen and the dining area. "Lighting a high space can be challenging, especially for kitchens," Steve says. Two large brass pendant lamps hang over the seating bar, closer to where their light is needed and, like the beadboard detail on the wall, scaling the high space



The master bedroom is decorated with coral-colored fabrics and the "Island cottage" theme continues in the bath, where the tiles and countertop evoke the colors of sandy beaches.



A mahogany-topped seating bar (left) separates the well-equipped kitchen from the greatroom and is lit by two large brass pendant lamps. The kitchen cabinets are lit with picture lights which also act as a decorative element.

down to human proportions. The kitchen cabinets are lit with picture lights which also act as a decorative element. These and other antique-look brass lighting fixtures throughout the room contribute a touch of nautical style.

At the back of the main room is a short hallway which leads to the cottage's small bath and two bedrooms. A framed window with open panes forms the dividing wall between hallway and

great room, and screens the entrances to the smaller spaces. The master bedroom is decorated with coral-colored fabrics. Its back door opens out to the patio behind the house. At the opposite end of the short hall is a small guest bedroom with twin beds. The fabric-covered headboards and bedspreads there evoke the familiar color of beach grass on summer days. The beach theme continues in the bath, where the tiles

give some of the visual texture of sandy beaches, as does the limestone vanity top, which is the same material and warm color as the kitchen counter.

Back out on the porch, there's room to relax and visit, an informal space cooled by evening breezes and shaded from the hot midday sun. The inside offers a voluminous main room and cozy bedroom spaces, all together an easy balance of living spaces. VS