

ON CAPE COD

AT

HOME

Custom Focus

**HOMES FOR
FAMILY LIVING**

**HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY
BLITZ BUILD**

**LANDSCAPE
DESIGN**

Complimentary Issue

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CAPE COD Oasis

BY DOUGLAS KARLSON PHOTOS

McPhee Associates designs a home for retirees' extended family gatherings

BY AMBER JANE BARRICMAN



Great for entertaining, the private backyard features a pool, fire pit and an outdoor kitchen.



A symmetrical design, Nantucket dormer and inviting front porch make visitors feel welcome. **Right:** A custom cupola and great white shark weathervane, sourced from Cape Cod Cupola, add a touch of whimsy and charm to the roofline. **Below:** Onion lanterns with an aged brass finish are a subtle nod to coastal New England's rich maritime history.



RESOURCES

Design & Builder:
McPhee Associates
Dennis
mcpheeassociatesinc.com

Landscaping:
McNamara Brothers
North Harwich
mcmamarabros.com

Cabinetry:
White Wood Kitchens
Sandwich
whitewoodkitchen.com

MARKED BY TRADITIONAL DESIGN, attention to detail, and an outdoor space that's perfect for family gatherings and entertaining, this Dennis house built by McPhee Associates has plenty of curb appeal.

The homeowners originally approached Rob McPhee, president of the design-build firm founded by his father, Bob, to renovate another house, which would have been a long and complex undertaking. Family-focused and nearing retirement, their goal was to find a house designed for family gatherings on the Cape where their grown children and young grandchildren could visit, explained McPhee.

As an alternative to renovating an old house, McPhee asked, "Did you ever think of building a new house?" McPhee already had a set of plans drawn up, as well as a building permit for a property in a neighborhood he was developing called Windward East. They jumped at the opportunity. As a result, the pre-construction process was much faster than usual.

Built in the traditional Cape Cod style with natural white cedar shingle siding, the house is symmetrically designed with a traditional Nantucket dormer, covered porch, and substantial centered chimney painted white.

The central portion of the house is tastefully extended on either side. McPhee explained that varying the rooflines allowed them to increase the size of the house (including a third garage bay) while maintaining a pleasing scale.

DETAILS MAKE the difference both inside and out. A cupola above the garage has a copper roof with a weathervane, and the windows have shutters and pediments.

"The trim both inside and outside can really set off a house," said McPhee.

The covered porch has brass lantern lighting fixtures and paired classic columns. It's set off by a tall flagpole on the lawn opposite the front door. A smaller side porch with a blue rocking chair adds to the charm.



“It’s a nice friendly neighborhood where you can sit out there on the rocking chair,” said McPhee. Inside, an open floor plan integrates the living room, dining room, kitchen and breakfast nook, all with a view of the sparkling swimming pool. Throughout, the attention to detail shows. McPhee Associates has a selection coordinator who assists with the selection of the finishes, such as tile, drawer pulls, flooring, and plumbing fixtures. “Our goal is to hold the client’s hands and go through the selection process. It’s a collaborative approach that’s designed to be enjoyable,” said McPhee.

McPhee Associates helps homeowners select just the right finishes, from nautical drawer pulls to Cambria quartz countertops. **Facing page:** Custom, space-defining elements, such as a vaulted ceiling and built-in banquette, lend a coziness to the kitchen’s breakfast nook.



The woodwork is impeccable. Trimmed ceiling beams connect columns and crown molding throughout the open space. Many of the cabinets and shelves were custom-constructed, such as the bookcases around the fireplace, and the shelving in the mudroom. Stunning white Cambria quartz covers the kitchen counters, island and backsplash. The owners opted for stained oak beadboard in the ceiling of the breakfast room, and natural walnut on the bar countertop and banisters. “That gives it a nautical look,” explained McPhee.



Above and below: The wet bar, from White Wood Kitchens, acts as a divider between the open concept family room and kitchen. Quality woodwork is a McPhee signature, from the dark wood bar top to the crown molding in the living room.



An outdoor kitchen (below), screened-in porch and outside shower (left) help the homeowners make the most of their outdoor living space.





From an organized mudroom to a much-used back porch, the house meets the real-world needs of an active family.

In the backyard, a large patio surrounds the swimming pool, and there's a gas firepit and an outdoor kitchen bar complete with a pizza oven. There's plenty of comfortable seating and a dining table — perfect for relaxing or entertaining guests. “They fill it up with their family,” said McPhee.

A porch has a flat screen TV and screen windows that can be replaced with glass to extend the season. “If you have a rainy day you can still enjoy the view,” noted McPhee. 🌧️

