

Landscape architect David Hawk says finding spots on the property to create special moments, like the firepit area he tucked into the sloping back lawn, made this project especially fun.

Architect Thomas Catalano designed (from left to right) a guesthouse, a two-story building with a lounge on the first floor and an office above, a pool cabana, and the main house.



Endless Summer

At this Osterville home, when it's summertime, the living truly is easy.

Text by PAULA M. BODAH | *Photography by* TRENT BELL & JOSEPH KELLER
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WHEN THE DESIGN PROFESSIONALS who worked on this Osterville home talk about it, the word *easy* comes up a lot. Not that the project was simple. Architect Thomas Catalano, interior designer Manuel de Santaren, landscape architect David Hawk, and builder Kenneth Vona (who brought the whole team together) had to resolve plenty of complex issues on their way to achieving the stylish result.



Flanked by a pair of oak trees, an outdoor dining area off the kitchen gets protection from sun and wind by a brise-soleil. The daughters' bedroom suites sit above the kitchen, while the third-floor window belongs to a bunk room.
FACING PAGE: The dock is the center of plenty of water-based family fun. The bay that juts out from the house holds the kitchen's sunny breakfast area.



“I DIDN’T WANT ANY COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE INSIDE AND THE
OUTDOOR LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE.”

—Interior designer Manuel de Santaren



“This is not a display kitchen by any stretch,” says interior designer Manuel de Santaren about the well-used kitchen. Leathered quartzite countertops stand up to hot pans and sharp knives, while the oak cabinetry’s simple profile and clear finish make for easy cleaning. **FACING PAGE:** The dining room is paneled with cerused, rift-sawn white oak. A John Pomp light fixture hangs above a table, designed by de Santaren and crafted by Masterpiece Woodworks of Avon, Massachusetts.

But they all agree that their clients, a California couple with New England roots, wanted a home where they and their two teenage daughters could spend carefree summers.

When the couple bought the property, a not-quite-two-acre stretch on a peninsula with water on three sides, it held a Spanish colonial revival that everyone agreed should be replaced. But before Catalano could think about design, he had to make sure a new house would be around for the generations to

follow. “The site was prone to flooding,” he says. “Our client was very clear that we needed to come up with a sustainable design that would work now, and that, when he wanted to give his house to his daughters in twenty or thirty years, wouldn’t be underwater.”

Once the property’s grade had been raised enough to account for higher sea levels and fortified on three sides with a low retaining wall, Catalano designed the structures—main house, guesthouse, pool cabana, and a building with

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ABOVE: The living room has glass on three sides, so it can be opened to the summer breezes. The TV pops up from the console behind the sofa and can rotate to be watched from indoors or out. Outdoor carpeting and performance fabrics mean wet bathing suits and sandy feet are no problem. **LEFT:** A sitting area at one end of the kitchen is a favorite spot for the family to gather and play music.

an entertaining space on the first floor and an office above—with longevity in mind. Lower-level utility spaces are built to tolerate flooding. “Water can flow in and out without causing damage,” the architect says. He chose western red cedar for shingles and roofing for its ability to stand up to salty air and high winds with little maintenance.

Layered over all that practicality is the visible part of Catalano’s magic, a playful take on the classic Cape Cod style rife with charming details inside and out. To take advantage of the peninsula’s 200-degree water views, the main house curves gently, ushering in natural light from dawn to dusk. “The house follows the sun,” Catalano says.

Landscape architect Hawk’s plan was all about connecting spaces. “Tom artfully created a wonderful vocabulary of architecture,” he says. “It’s almost a little village that wraps around the pool.” Hawk introduced patios, decks, terraces, meandering walkways, swaths of lawn, and borders and beds of native plants and Cape Cod classics like hydrangeas

The cupola-topped pool cabana sports a full outdoor kitchen that gets as much use in the summertime as its indoor counterpart. Serious swimmers can avail themselves of the twenty-five-meter swimming lap that runs along one edge of the pool, perhaps followed by a soak in the raised spa. A border garden helps integrate the lawn and pool area.





TOP TO BOTTOM: The parents' bath features a herringbone-patterned marble floor and a freestanding tub that sits in a bay window for relaxing with a view. Ships lanterns offer an appropriately nautical touch to an outdoor hallway between the main house and the pool cabana. **FACING PAGE:** Everything tastes that much better when accompanied by salty breezes and a water view; Hawk chose the pin oaks flanking the deck for their hardiness and their see-through quality.

and roses, unifying the property from the gracious front entry to the dock at the foot of the sloping backyard.

Inside, de Santaren's design continues the easy, flowing ambience. "I didn't want any competition between the inside and the outdoor landscape and seascape," he says. Every light-filled room is outfitted with furnishings chosen as much for comfort and effortless maintenance as for good looks. The handsome chairs surrounding the dining table (which extends to seat up to twenty-two for dinner) are, says Catalano, "probably the most comfortable dining chairs I've ever sat in my life."

In the same good-looking-yet-practical vein, the kitchen's twin islands sport leathered-quartzite tops that de Santaren calls "practically indestructible," and the living room floor wears fade- and stain-resistant indoor/outdoor carpeting. "There are no fragile materials in the house," says de Santaren.

Even the main bedroom suite fuses form and function. Built-in nightstands and dressers make the bedroom as efficient as a ship's stateroom, while the bath is an all-white spa-like oasis.

When the family opens the doors at the start of the warm season, it's easy to imagine their fondest wish is that summer will never end.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see *Resources*.

ARCHITECTURE: Thomas P. Catalano, Catalano Architects

INTERIOR DESIGN: Manuel de Santaren

BUILDER: Kenneth Vona, KVC Builders

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: David Hawk, Hawk Design

