

FAMILY TIES

On the water in Osterville, two sisters create a carefree summer escape next door to their parents.

*Text by ALYSSA BIRD | Exterior photography by NAT REA
Interior photography by TIM WILLIAMS*

Architect Tom Catalano was tasked with designing a summer residence (left) for two sisters on a waterfront property located next door to their parents' house, which Catalano conceived fifteen years ago. The existing pool and pool house (right) now serve both properties and act as a central entertaining space and social hub.





When architect Tom Catalano designed a family residence in Osterville, Massachusetts, in 2007, little did he know that he would be returning fifteen years later to conceive a house for the now-adult daughters next door. The property's existing residence—a timeworn shingled cottage—didn't fit the needs of the clients, so Catalano

started from scratch, dreaming up a sprawling summer home tailored to family get-togethers and casual entertaining. “My sister and I have a strong connection to this area,” says the client. “We always joked with our parents about buying the house next door, so when it came up for sale we didn't hesitate.”



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The clients tapped designer Liz Caan to decorate the interiors, which feature neutral and serene tones as seen in the great room. A light fixture from Bone Simple Design and a bench from O&G Studio liven up the foyer. A nook in the great room contains an unexpected bar area with custom cabinetry, hardware from Rejuvenation, sink fittings from Waterworks, and picture lights from Soane Britain.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Although the sisters' home is a touch less traditional in style, it complements the architecture of the parents' residence in an effort to create what feels like a cohesive compound. The clients didn't want a formal dining room, so Caan incorporated a banquette into the kitchen for casual meals; the barstools are from Hollywood at Home, and the pendants are from The Urban Electric Co. The pantry features a playful oyster print from Covered Wallpaper.

The design concept revolved around the idea of connecting the new house to the parents' home. "The parents' property has a pool and pool house that are now shared by both homes, so we used that to anchor a new outdoor space that serves as a nexus of activity," says Catalano. "It's an incredible site facing Nantucket Sound with southern exposure, so we took advantage of both and designed all rooms to face that way. The residence is similar in style to the parents' home, but it's not a recreation of what's

next door. Here, there aren't as many traditional architectural elements and the interior is much more open."

It's not every day that Catalano designs a house with two owners in mind, but great attention was paid to address the needs of both, including two equally luxurious primary suites. "My sister and I are in different stages of life, so we needed a place for adults to gather as well as something appropriate for young children," says the client. "There are peo-

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—Interior designer Liz Caan



ABOVE: The kitchen sitting area, complete with a fireplace and a television, provides another space for the homeowners to entertain or hang out as a family. **RIGHT:** The third-floor landing leads to the bunk room and two additional guest rooms. **FACING PAGE:** The side entrance opens onto the mudroom, which is lined with vintage French pack and creel baskets.

ple staying here most weekends, whether it's one person or fifteen, so we needed as much sleeping space as possible. With the addition of the bunk room, six families can comfortably stay here.”

When it came time for the sisters to combine their styles, Catalano introduced them to interior designer Liz Caan. “We wanted the house to feel warm, inviting, and not too precious,” says the client. “My sister’s style is eclectic, and I prefer something more classic, but Liz was able to combine both while pushing us out of our comfort zones.”

The result is “classic yet youthful,” says Caan. “The homeowners are casual people who wanted their friends to feel comfortable enough to walk around barefoot with a beer in hand, so we let that thought guide us throughout the process. The furnishings are a mix of high, low, and flea-market finds, and the palette is colorful but not overly saturated.”





ABOVE: The office walls were hand-painted by Patina Designs, and both the window treatment fabric and the upholstery on the game table chairs are from Schumacher. **BELOW:** The bunk room, which contains four full beds and four twin beds, features a lobster-print ceiling paper from Root Cellar Designs.



ABOVE: A third-floor guest room is enveloped in a pattern by Robert Kime. **BELOW:** The house has two primary bedrooms, and the one on the first floor contains a grasscloth accent wall in a hand-painted check pattern by Patina Designs; the pendant is from The Urban Electric Co., and the artwork is by Mary Maguire.





ABOVE: A Christopher Farr wallcovering lends interest to one of the second-floor guest rooms. **BELOW:** The first-floor primary bath features mirrors from Villa & House, sconces from The Urban Electric Co., and a vintage chair. **FACING PAGE:** The second-floor primary bedroom, with its views of Nantucket Sound, is equal in size to the one on the first floor. "Because we were designing the house for two clients, it was important that there be two identical primary suites," explains Catalano.



While there is some blue, Caan veered away from an expected blue-and-white scheme and opted for "interesting greens, reddish pinks, and other shades on the edge of being another color," she says. "The tone being just a little off provides an element of surprise and lends a youthful touch."

Caan was able to sneak in some whimsical moments, too, including a lobster wallpaper on the ceiling of the bunk room and an oyster wallpaper in the pantry. She even brought in an artist to create hand-painted patterns for the walls of the office and one of the primary bedrooms. "The beauty of working with Tom and Liz is that we trust their tastes," says the client. "Our parents' home serves as the heart of our family, and this house has that same feeling."

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE: Catalano Architects

INTERIOR DESIGN: Liz Caan & Co.

BUILDER: Bayside Building

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Dan Gordon Landscape Architects

