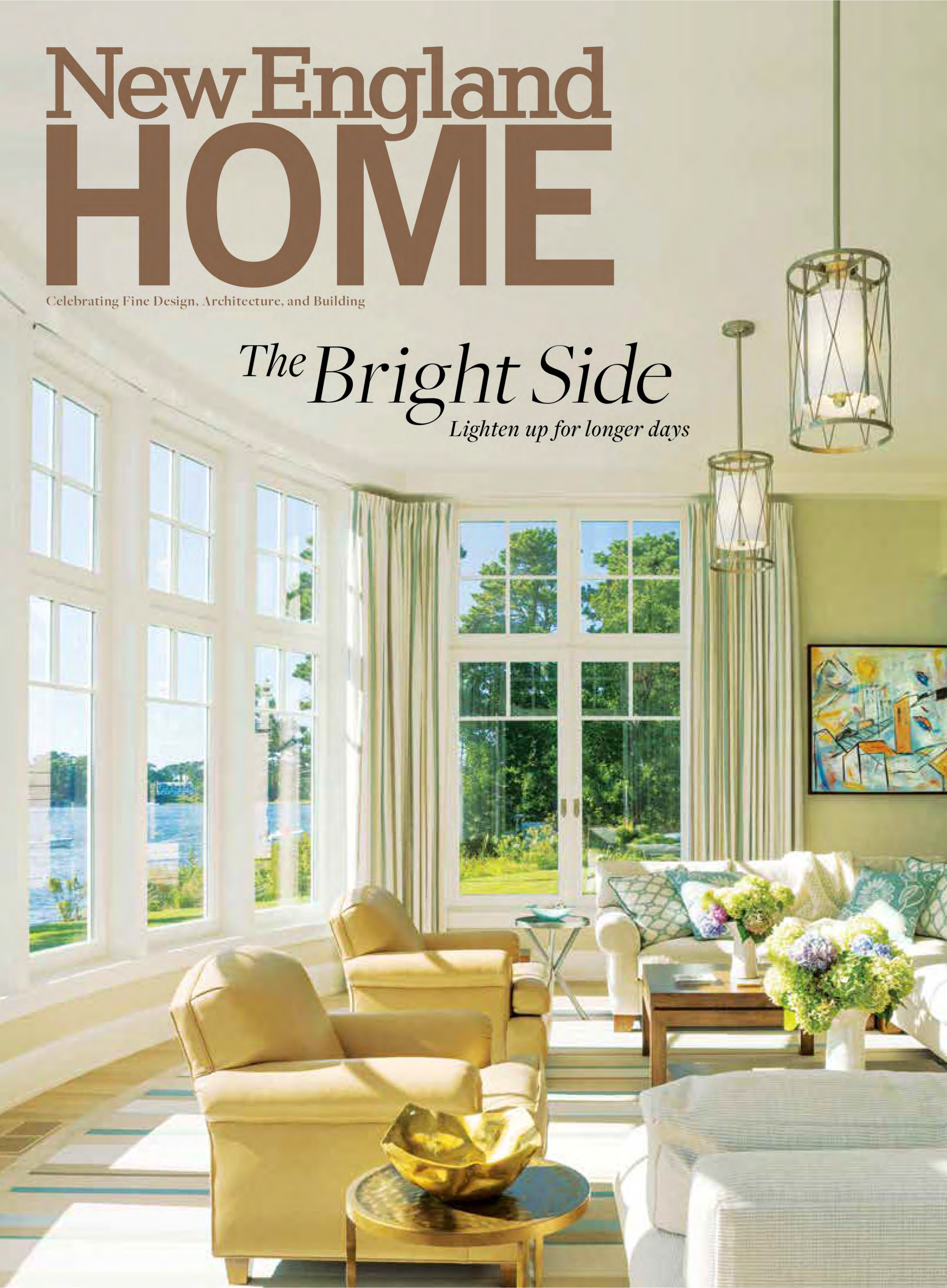


New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building


The Bright Side

Lighten up for longer days





The custom Tai Ping rug, with stripes of sandy neutrals and splashes of blue, curves to follow the bow of the window in the sunny living room. **RIGHT:** Painted panels trimmed with anigre add warmth and texture to the walls of the foyer and hallway. Anigre also forms the stairway's graceful railing. A John Pomp light fixture of multiple glass orbs cascades from the high ceiling.



breezy does it

Elegant, stylish, and
without a trace of pretense,
this Chatham getaway
flows seamlessly from
indoors to out.

Text by PAULA M. BODAH

Photography by
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Produced by
KARIN LIDBECK
BRENT



All those *CURVES* in the landscape
ECHO the *ROUNDED* forms that
REPEAT in the architecture.



The open kitchen, dining, and living spaces are delineated by their ceiling heights and treatments, including the dramatic venetian-plastered cove above the dining table. The color scheme throughout the house is a sophisticated take on the classic colors of sea and sky. The living room's twin sofas create intimacy while keeping the focus on the view.





This Cape Cod home holds a warm place in the hearts of the professionals who brought it into being. Maybe it's because the clients, who were immersed in the project from the start, were delightful to work with. "They're like family to us," says Brian Vona of KVC Builders, the firm that assembled the design team.

Shades of sea greens and blues enliven the white kitchen. Designer Leslie Fine united the open spaces with common elements, such as the wood-stained counter stools that match the wood furniture of the dining and living rooms.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The primary bathroom's clear glass shower doors are separated with a panel that's textured to resemble falling water. A vaulted ceiling gives the main bedroom a grand feel that's brought down to scale by the quiet furnishings, including the Grange sleigh bed; the console at the foot of the bed holds a pop-up TV. A stand-alone tub gives a corner of the bathroom a spa-like feel.



It could also well be that the design team looks at the results and recognizes something truly special. "It's really a sweet house," says architect Doreve Nicholaeff. The Chatham property, overlooking a pond that links to Pleasant Bay, had an existing house and garage that the clients initially thought they could remodel. As Nicholaeff began sketching ideas, however, it quickly became clear that the bones of the house didn't offer quite what the couple envisioned. Working within the existing footprint, Nicholaeff designed a house that nods to traditional Cape Cod style but with a clean, transitional feel.

Landscape architect Michael Coutu reimagined the yard and gardens to complement the architecture and highlight the property's many assets. Coutu set native and ornamental plants—flowering shrubs, flowing grasses, fragrant roses, and colorful hydrangeas—along the curving fieldstone walls and cobblestone paths that flow like a gentle stream around the property. "There's

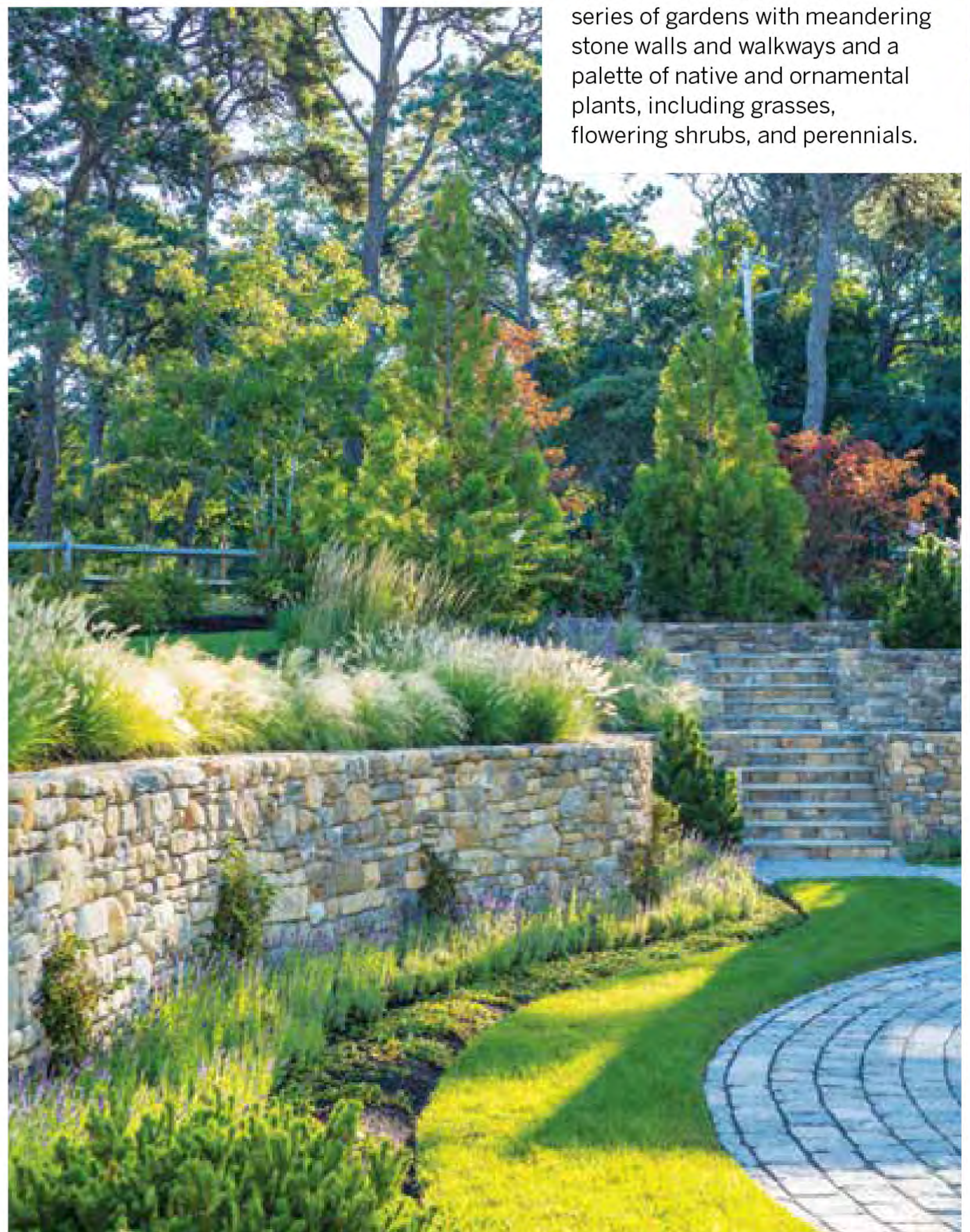




CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The new house, built on the footprint of the old, nods to traditional Cape Cod style but with a clean, transitional feel. The pergola-covered outdoor kitchen has everything needed for gathering family and friends. Landscape architect Michael Coutu created a series of gardens with meandering stone walls and walkways and a palette of native and ornamental plants, including grasses, flowering shrubs, and perennials.

“There’s lots
of *TEXTURE*
and year-round
COLOR.
There is *ALWAYS*
something
happening.”

—LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECT MICHAEL
COUTU





lots of texture and year-round color,” he says. “There is always something happening.”

All those curves in the landscape echo the rounded forms that repeat in the architecture. The double-height foyer, for example, is all curves and swoops, from the off-center spiraling staircase to the hallway that bends gently to let the living area, with its lovely water views, reveal itself slowly.

Nicholaeff steered the foyer away from melodrama with clean, modern materials, like the anigre wood that forms the slender banister and trims the hallway’s panels. Interior designer Leslie Fine installed a John Pomp chandelier of handblown glass spheres that seem to cascade from the high ceiling. “It can be appreciated from both the first and second floors,” she says, “and it seems to follow you up and down the stairs.”

With
VIEWS of a
pond that
links to
Pleasant Bay,
“It’s really
a *SWEET*
house.”

—ARCHITECT
DOREVE
NICHOLAEFF

Fine complemented Nicholaeff’s architecture with clean-lined, transitional furniture against a palette of soft neutrals with splashes of color that speak to the waterside location. In the open-plan living area, Nicholaeff used varied ceiling heights, including a recessed oval coffer above the dining table, to define the spaces. Fine gave the recess a venetian-plaster treatment in a pretty sea-blue hue, then surrounded the Keith Fritz dining table with Dakota Jackson chairs outfitted in bright aqua fabric.

Twin L-shaped sofas give the long sitting area a cozy feel. “You can sit ten people there for conversation, or just have two people and still have it feel intimate,” Fine says.

As chic and sophisticated as every element is, the overall vibe is gracious and unpretentious. Which, Vona will tell you, is an apt description of the homeowners.

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

ARCHITECTURE: Doreve Nicholaeff,
Nicholaeff Architecture + Design

INTERIOR DESIGN: Leslie Fine, Leslie Fine
Interiors

BUILDER: KVC Builders

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Michael Coutu,
Sudbury Design Group





An outdoor sitting area makes a perfect spot to while away a summer evening. In the cooler months of spring and fall, a fireplace fends off the chill, making the cozy arrangement a three-season location for quiet conversation.