

Summer indulgence

A Hyannisport couple
turns warm-weather living into
a year-round lifestyle.

BY MARY WEAVER - PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB SMITH

Steve and Cynthia Seidner's airy kitchen, built by Chuck Hart of Lewis & Weldon Custom Kitchens in Hyannis, is filled with light. "Even on the darkest days of winter, it's a joy to be in the kitchen," says Cynthia.





"every morning, we look out at the ocean..."



The master bedroom's balcony overlooks private Covells Beach. OPPOSITE TOP: Though the dining room furnishings are antique, the room has an informal feel. "The table is chunky and solid—I don't worry that the grandchildren will damage it," Cynthia says with affection. The antique Staffordshire stoneware plates are particular favorites. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Architect Timothy Luff of Archi-Tech Associates in Cotuit designed the handsome Hyannisport home, built by Kendall & Welch Construction in Osterville.



WHEN CYNTHIA SEIDNER LEFT CHESTER, ENGLAND, for a trip to Australia to attend her sister's wedding, she planned to be away for a month. More than forty years later she still hasn't returned to the U.K. to live, but after numerous homes—in Australia, Canada, and the United States—she and her husband, Steve, are now happily ensconced in Craigville Beach, West Hyannisport.

With four children, ages 40 to 26, and four grandchildren (more are on the way), the couple added to their long list of achievements by building an elegant cedar-shingled house just a stone's throw away from the ocean. Cynthia, who grew up in Wales, always dreamt of returning there, but, she says, "Cape Cod is about the nearest you get to Wales in the States, and it has the added advantage of our children living in the vicinity," she says.

About eight years ago, while living in Detroit, Michigan, where Steve was a director of Renault Cars, the couple decided to buy a holiday home on the Cape. "It was very much a beach house with no foundation and no insulation," says Cynthia. Discovering that it would be prohibitively expensive to restore, they worked with architect Timothy Luff of Archi-Tech Associates in Cotuit on plans for a rebuild. "We wanted to keep a beach house feel, but update it with modern technology," explains Cynthia. Having run an antique importing business with her brother in England for years, she also needed to ensure a temperate



Soft, breezy colors echo the seascape views throughout the Seidners' home, which is filled with cozy comforts for visiting family. "We call it the dorm," says homeowner Cynthia of the charming bedroom built for her five grandchildren, including Alexis, 5, and Casey, 6. The windows are crowned with a sign by Cape artist Cornelia Jones, who also painted lines of poetry on the walls of the master bath and family room porch. **OPPOSITE:** The master bedroom is a calm, peaceful space.

light streams in through windows all around...



environment for her personal collection of antiques.

While plans were being drawn for their new house, Cynthia and Steve moved to another home near the property. "We wanted to be close so we could be very hands-on," notes Cynthia, who designed the interior while Steve worked on the budget and technical aspects of the build. "We're a good combination and luckily see things pretty much eye to eye," she says. Together they planned

an easy-to-live-in home that would be cool and light in the summer, yet warm and cozy in the winter months. All-round windows, free of curtains, allow the light to stream in.

The interior, apart from the master bedroom, is painted cool white throughout. Polished wood floors stretch the length of the ground floor. Leading off the master bedroom at the back of the house is a terrace with views of the ocean for miles around. "Every morning we look to see what's in



store for the day," says Cynthia. In the summer the couple breakfast on the terrace and watch the sun set from the veranda below. They go to the beach (only a two-minute walk away) virtually every day.

"In summer we entertain on the beach with picnics of wine, cheese, or locally caught lobster," she says. Parties are also held for a group of ex-pat friends who call themselves "Daughters of the British Empire," and the annual Clam Bake involving 60 local families was held in their garden. "We love having family and friends in the house," admits Cynthia, who designed a special "dormitory" bedroom for the grandchildren. "I put six beds in there, but if I have any more grandchildren I'll have to start turning them into bunk beds," she says.

Winter months at the house are quieter, but the couple still walk on the beach everyday. Adds Cynthia, "It's wonderful therapy and keeps us appreciating our lovely home and its very special location."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
SEE MARKETPLACE ON PAGE 128.**

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