

Soothing green fabrics and rattan furnishings provide about the only colors in the house besides warm white.



BY MARION LAFFEY FOX
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BRUCE BUCK



old nantucket, made new

Twenty years of renting vacation homes on Nantucket gave the Shanahan family an idea of what they did—and didn't—want when it came time to build their own.

After spending many summers in houses all over Nantucket, Rini and Tom Shanahan decided it was time to build a permanent retreat—a home that would feature the best parts of all the places they had stayed.

The couple hired architect Lyman Perry to design a space in keeping with old Nantucket style but with a nod to contemporary functionality.

Turn to page 78.



The house's L-shape design sports an 18th-century weathered-shingle facade complete with fanlights, a widow's walk, and balconies. Above: Rini Shanahan



"Rini grabbed bits and pieces of all the houses she stayed in and made this one hers," Lyman's project manager, Jeff Spoelker, says. Livability was her main concern. "The Shanahans are the type of people who kick back, relax, and put their feet up."

An interior designer in New York, Rini says that renting other people's houses for so many years taught her two things: the importance of privacy and the unimportance of a formal living room. "Everyone always gathers in the kitchen," she says. "We decided to be



Doing my own house is the best design job on the island,"

Rini says. "It's so much fun I'll probably keep dragging it out forever."



practical and make the family room and kitchen the center of the house."

Together, Rini and Lyman decided on a floorplan that would do just that. "I wanted everything to flow through this calm, airy, totally open space," says Rini.

From the outside, the house looks like a typical New England Federal design. Inside, Lyman opened up the traditional old-house floorplan of small rooms and low ceilings to take advantage of light and views. A small parlor and dining room grace the front of the

house; the family room on the back extends two stories and opens to the garden. Here, transom and dormer windows over French doors offer views of the marsh in the nature preserve that meets their lot.

To underscore the airy feeling, Lyman added built-in bookcases and cabinetry to hide such items as the television. Rini complemented his design by choosing simple wood furnishings and off-white upholstered sofas and chairs.

In the dining room, bare wide-plank floors and warm white walls

OVER 18,000
VACATION RENTALS
FROM SAND TO SNOW.



ResortQuest® offers one- to six-bedroom vacation rental condos, villas, and homes in 42 premier resort destinations. Choose from fabulous quality-rated beach resorts, incredible golf resorts, and panoramic ski locations throughout the contiguous US, Hawaii, and Canada.

Visit resortquest.com to plan your next vacation, see pictures, and take a virtual tour or call 888-909-6814 today.
AOL Keyword: ResortQuest



RESORTQUEST
INTERNATIONAL®



create a serene backdrop for the stark lines of black Windsor chairs. A wrought-iron chandelier hangs over the oval dining table, and a simple 18th-century case clock stands prominently in one corner. Across the hall, the living room is pure pared-down elegance, dotted with treasures that range from a painted green hanging corner cupboard to a deeply angled chest that once graced the rumble seat of an antique roadster.

Lyman's design combined with Rini's desire for simplicity is the secret to this interior success. Her rooms and abundant, colorful garden express wit and a total rejection of fussiness. Rini spent two decades planning all the parts that would become her family's retreat. Says Jeff, "She finally got a chance to take that wish list into her own home." 🌸 More info: page 219.



Rini's collection of Nantucket baskets rests on an antique painted chest at the foot of the staircase. The architect designed the banister and newel posts to complement the honey hues in the long-leaf yellow pine floor.