Post-and-beam construction fashions an expansive vaulted interior, enriched by the casual warmth of rugged pine. Traditional mullioned windows ascend to the heights to frame vistas of water and sky. *Inset opposite:* Overlooking the new living room, the loft adds another layer of space, while making the dining room below look cozy.

a LOFTY solution

As the family expanded, so did the bland Cape Cod house, with a soaring addition that draws in the seaside views.

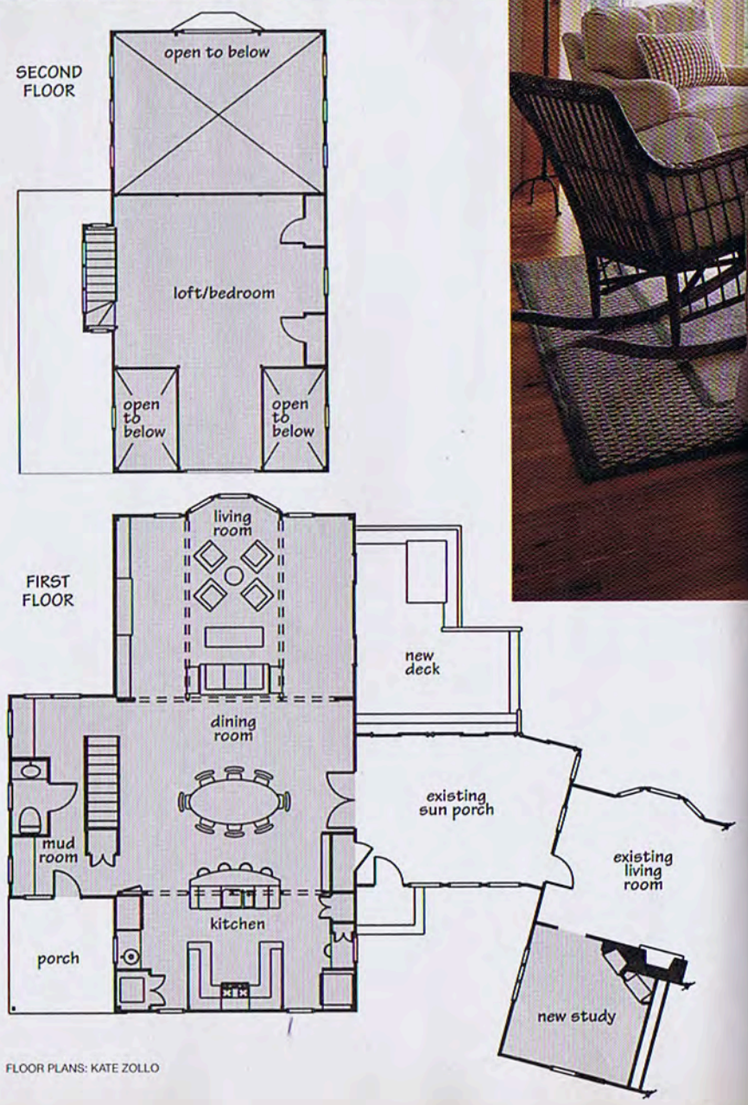
The standard Cape Cod house didn't live up to its stunning location at the mouth of a Massachusetts bay, nor its role as a frequent gathering place for the homeowners' children and grandchildren. Architect Lyman Perry, with project manager Jeffrey Spoelker, remedied both problems with a high-vaulted, 1,500-square-foot addition, including a living room, dining area and new kitchen, plus a casual loft above, all wrapped in rich wood and panoramic windows. "It connects the house to its surroundings," explains Perry. "The addition reflects the region's architectural character. And, with all the windows, you sense the presence of the outdoors."

Appealing Framework

Post-and-beam construction, with classic mortise-and-tenon joinery, creates the lofty, undisrupted vaulted interior.

PHOTOGRAPHS: JEFFREY ALLEN
DESIGN: LYMAN PERRY WITH JEFFREY SPOELKER, LYMAN S.A. PERRY ARCHITECTS

An existing porch became an airy breezeway to link the old house with the new addition, while maintaining a bit of separation. The new construction retains its New England accent, with classic shingles and steep gables.



"We do a lot of post-and-beam buildings," says Perry. "I like them because they give a sense of the structure, the building's 'bones.'" In this project, highly insulated panels update the classic method of construction. The timber framing also jump-started the interior design, giving it the warm, casually hospitable air the owners sought. "Sometimes people want polished, formal woods," says Perry, "but this couple chose pine with a strong, knotty grain."

Open yet Organized

Throughout the addition, the floor presents another expanse of wood, in a rich, slightly darker tone. "Even though the space is very open, the timber framework

Above: **Wood tones warm up the lofty living room. Space flows easily through the open plan, just right for casual entertaining; the windows and French doors bring the outdoors in.**

Left: **The fresh white of the insulated panels and the energy-efficient, vinyl-clad windows leavens the effect of the rugged woodwork. The owners' down-to-earth, uncluttered decorating also adds to the room's friendly feeling. See Buying Guide for details.**

FLOOR PLANS: KATE ZOLLO

Structural and decorative, rugged timbers define functional areas of the open spaces.

defines the different functional areas," points out Perry.

Alongside the high-vaulted living room, which is wrapped on three sides with windows, the overhead loft creates a getaway. It can serve as a spare bedroom, or as a place to retreat with a book or game, while remaining in touch with the party below. The loft structure also encloses the dining area, imbuing it with greater intimacy.

To either side of the kitchen, the living room again reaches to a double height for a cascade of natural light. An ample island counter provides a work space and serving area, while only minimally separating the kitchen from the social spaces. The refrigerator, placed at one open end, can be accessed without passing through the work triangle. See-through cabinets, with traditional mullioned fronts on both sides, sustain the visual flow. And the sink is strategically placed so that the cook faces out toward company. With such details, the addition not only enlarges the house, "it's also an expansion," notes Perry, "of the way the family lives there."

—Margaret Sabo Wills

For an expansive mood, the kitchen opens to the full two-story height along both sides. The wide work counters are useful for buffet serving at family parties and easily accommodate multiple cooks.