

# Summer at the *Shore*

Character and coastal ambiance abound in this renovated classic New England beach house with a calming palette and an infusion of natural textures.

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An abundance of light mixes with the wood accents, while the blend of vintage and modern decor and natural elements adds texture to this wonderful seaside respite.





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The Provincetown Beach House with its multilevel decks provides an assortment of spots for entertaining and taking in the spectacular seaside views.



El and Ro Pannesi, the owners of a beach house located in the New England coastal town of Provincetown, Massachusetts, reached out to Chris Brown of B Architecture Studio for his help with a complete top-to-bottom renovation of their home. Brown’s design process began with a series of discussions with his clients to determine the goals and dreams for their reimagined space. Through these conversations, Brown quickly identified two important factors: the Pannesis were particularly keen on making the completed design a reflection of their personal style, and their home’s stunning reach-out-and-touch-the-water setting must be the focal point.

**Above:** A living room layers in the homeowners’ personal style with a custom-painted sliding door. Colors selected for paint and fabric reflect calming seaside tones.

**Right:** The custom staircase incorporates reclaimed wood elements and handcrafted decorative details—built-ins to display treasured finds and stair risers crafted with a puzzle piece detail.







**Left:** Natural wood elements continue to be a focal point in the dining room through the custom ceiling detail and selected furniture. The view of the seaside is breathtaking.

To ensure unobstructed views in every room, the floor plan became Brown's top priority. He proposed "areas both inside and outside for sitting, cooking, relaxing and fun, while keeping the pathways clear and manageable on a narrow site." Finalized drawings also paid particular attention to "respecting the exciting home's vernacular—its language and space." Within this context, Brown seamlessly blended old and new elements throughout the interior and exterior and added locally sourced materials. "The black window sashes in the master bath are original to the house and now slide on a track. The harbor oak on the stair and ceilings are from pilings from the Boston Tea Party and Jimmy's Harborside, and the heart pine floors are local to a mill in southern Massachusetts," Brown says.

Influenced by the landscape, Brown chose to incorporate natural finishes. Selections for the outside included cedar shakes, red cedar base panels and an Ipe wood deck. Wood and stone are elements he utilized inside, with details of harbor oak and heart pine as well as stone countertops for the kitchen.

**Above:** The kitchen incorporates natural finishes with a wood ceiling and stone countertops. The homeowners' desire to infuse vintage charm is reflected in the pendant lighting over the sink and island and in the cabinetry hardware.

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Brown's collaborative design approach with the homeowners culminated in their signature style being layered throughout this waterside gem. Brown notes "a great deal of attention was paid to light fixtures and hardware. The clients sourced some wonderful antique light fixtures, and we detailed down to the knob light switches and finishes. We created a full palette of fixtures, textures and color with great input from El and Ro. It made for a fun process and a cohesive result."

Brown also points to the unique character of the custom-designed interior staircase. Crafted by Cape Associates, the design adds touches of whimsy to the outside corners of the stair risers "in a look similar to a puzzle piece turned 90 degrees." Additional exterior design details including wave-styled shingles applied alongside the second floor wall and hand-drawn humpback whale cutouts on the shutters echo the Pannesis' desire to infuse charming personal touches.

Upon project completion, Brown explains, "The spectacular setting aside, people are drawn to it because it is a home, not a showpiece; it reflects the owners' personality on every level. Granted we as architects and builders are thrilled with the result, but when you step into the house, you start to learn more about El and Ro and their family and friends."

For more information about the Provincetown House design and architect Chris Brown, visit [barchstudio.com](http://barchstudio.com).

For more information about the Provincetown House renovations, visit [capeassociates.com](http://capeassociates.com).

**Left:** A contemporary shower is simple yet stylish with an inspired coastal palette.



## RESTORATION MATTERS

Ideas to help make yesterday's beach house into today's coastal masterpiece

- **Character and Charm**

Embrace the uniqueness, quirkiness and character of your selected setting. See beyond possible design limitations by being receptive to unexpected adaptations. Make changes but keep the integrity of the space and build on its foundations.

- **Classic but Functional**

Renovating classic homes typically involves updating fundamentals to code. In the case of the Provincetown beach house, the original structure was raised on piers to satisfy new flood zone requirements. To ensure that your renovated structure is both safe and compliant, enlist the help of a reliable contractor, architect and designer.

- **Mix and Match**

Seamlessly blend old and new by sourcing local or reclaimed materials. These elements add rich patina, design interest, layered texture and collectively working together.

