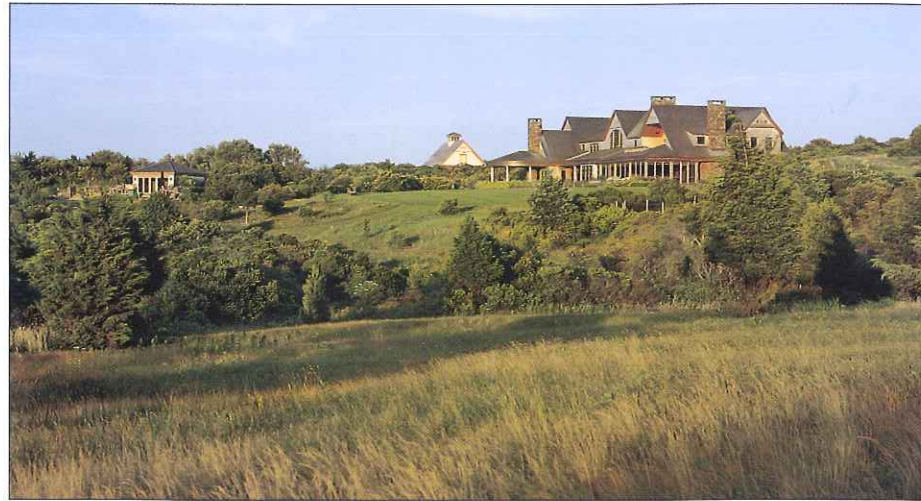


RIGHT: "It's set on a high hill facing the ocean on Nantucket," interior designer Karin Blake says of Stephen and Mary Meadow's gabled house, which was built by architects William McGuire and Stephen Theroux.



When Stephen and Mary Meadow bought a house on Nantucket in 1992, they were captivated by the island's peacefulness. "Nantucket has no traffic lights and no parking meters, and that's astonishing to people who live in Los Angeles," says Steve Meadow. The house was adequate for the couple and their four children. Over the next few

## From Coast to Coast

TRADING BEVERLY HILLS FOR NANTUCKET, MODERN ART FOR FOLK

Architecture by Nantucket Architecture Group/Interior Design by Karin Blake  
Text by Susan Sheehan/Photography by David O. Marlow



years, however, the two older children married and, between them, had five children. "We outgrew the place," Meadow explains. He and his wife then purchased a six-acre property—adjacent to 300 acres of conservation land—on one of the island's highest points, overlooking Nantucket Sound. They had William McGuire and Stephen Theroux, of Nantucket Architecture Group, build them a 28-room house.

In Beverly Hills the Meadows had lived in a contemporary house and had a fine collection of modern art. They sold the residence with all its furniture the day it went on the market and put their Roy Lichtensteins and Hans Hofmanns in storage. Mary Meadow had decided she wanted a "traditional Nantucket-y home" and chose Karin Blake as its designer: She had admired the houses filled with folk art that the Los Angeles-based designer had done for other clients and for herself.

"Karin knew what Mary wanted but was worried I might stick with too much

"We acquired folk art especially for the rooms." LEFT: A circa 1885 Raven & Ring tavern sign hangs in the entrance hall near an early American firkin, which rests on an English dough bin. OPPOSITE: Circa 1880 snake andirons are placed before the great room's fireplace. Schumacher sofa fabric; Bennison chair stripe.





OPPOSITE: A chandelier crafted from a railroad bucket illuminates the breakfast area, where Windsor chairs circle an American table. The Swedish cupboard holds ironstone china. RIGHT: In the dining area of the great room are a circa 1860 Rochester rooster weathervane, a French table and English ladderback chairs.

contemporariness, but it's amazing how my taste changed to match hers," says Steve Meadow. According to Blake, "Steve became increasingly interested in folk art and learned to appreciate it. Some clients never learn anything."

The first piece one sees in the entrance hall is a large sign for a tavern called the Raven & Ring. "I loved the carving because it's whimsical and it isn't your typical 'Hare and Hound' sign," says Blake. "The best thing would have been to hang it outside. I couldn't, because of the weather, so I put it close to the front door but where it wouldn't bob anyone walking in." Across from it is a copper cow weathervane, one of several items the Meadows bought at auction in Boston.

"We had just disembarked from a cruise in Buenos Aires," Steve Meadow recalls. "I got a cell phone from our hotel, and we spent three hours bidding. We were fortunate enough to be the high bidders on the cow and on a figural whirligig that now stands in the den."

The great room on the main floor is vast, with a large fieldstone fireplace (one of six in the house), a planked hemlock ceiling with antique beams, and a wide-plank oak floor. In it are several of the Meadows' favorite objects: a pair of 19th-century snake andirons, an early-20th-century carved black-bird and a wagon wheel, which Blake procured at a saloon auction in Livingston, Montana. "I'd bought a similar wheel for my home in Montana, and it made a fine chandelier," she says. "It works in the Meadows' house because it carries its weight in a big space and fits in with the old beams."

The great room opens to an office



RIGHT: "The den is a cozy family room with lots of light and sink-into furniture," Blake points out. Displayed above the fireplace is an English pond boat. A circa 1910 figural whirligig and a small rocking horse share the low table. Ralph Lauren fabric on George Smith sofa.

and a dining area. Blake chose to put a mixture of 18th- and 19th-century English ladderback chairs around the French walnut table in the latter. "A set of ladderback chairs is boring," says the designer. "Each chair has its own character and makes the room more interesting." She adds, "Almost all of the furniture in the rooms is European. Most early American pieces are too small in scale for this house."

Another one of the Meadows' fa-

vorite acquisitions is a six-foot-tall 19th-century English pond boat, which hangs above the mantel in the den. "I was born on Cape Cod," says Blake. "Sailing was what we did in the summer, and I'm drawn to boats. That boat makes the room, and I didn't want to put an oil painting over the fireplace." Steve Meadow agrees. "A Red Grooms wouldn't fit in this house," he says.

Deer Meadow, as we're overrun by deer from the conservation acres." Next to the floating staircase on the first floor is a lion carved by prominent carousel builder Charles Looff. "I coveted this lion, and I'm so glad Steve and Mary did too," says Karin Blake. "Steve grew up in New York, and the lion once rode on a carousel in Brooklyn. It's got great glass eyes, an open mouth, a realistic full-bodied mane, sturdy legs and great paws. On its back is a red-painted saddle. Folk art doesn't get any better than this." □



The residence consists of three stories. On the lower level are a gym, a steam room, a game room with a pool table, a wine cellar, a massage room

and a movie theater. A floating spiral staircase ascends from the main level to the second floor, where the Meadows' master suite is located. A separate staircase leads to bedrooms for their children and grandchildren. "We're a close family, and we all like to spend time together, yet we also enjoy privacy," notes Steve Meadow. "We originally called this house, in which we hope to live forever, Dear Meadow. We went from Dear Meadow to

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TOP: A Charles Looff carved carousel lion stands near the staircase. ABOVE: "Comfortable, inviting seating warms up the master bedroom," says Blake. "I like antique Nantucket baskets and used one here and others throughout the house." On the circa 1880 French desk is an "Ethan Allen" horse weathervane. At left is an old mannequin.

"The Meadows have a large family, so they needed some privacy. A master suite was laid out for them on the second floor that takes advantage of the views." A pitched ceiling accented with beams crowns the slate-floored bath. Kohler iron tub. Waterworks heated towel rack.



The property—adjacent to 300 acres of conservation land—is on one of Nantucket's highest points.



Across the broad lawn from the main house is an infinity-edge pool, which stretches out amid wild roses, lilacs and indigenous grasses. "David Troast, our landscape designer, wouldn't let us use a single shrub or plant that wasn't native to Nantucket," notes Steve Meadow.

