

Curve Appeal

A CLASSIC NANTUCKET ISLAND EXTERIOR GIVES WAY TO GRAND, UNDULATING SPACES FILLED WITH LIGHT AND OPEN TO ENDLESS COASTAL VIEWS.

Writer Mindy Pantiel Photographer Michael Partenio Field editor Stacy Kunstel





Scaling down

First impressions can be deceiving. The exterior of this Nantucket home—perched atop a hill overlooking a 14-acre property of windswept moors—offers barely a hint of the expansive spaces inside. That's because, while the property offers room to spread, all new construction on the island must meet strict requirements on height and exterior design.

"The right angles and low rooflines you first see as you approach fool the eye into thinking this house is smaller than it really is," architect Mick Rowland says. "One of my goals was to make this house, where it was visible from the road, visible in such a way that you wouldn't see the whole breadth of the building. That's why it angles off the back, out of sight." While the 15,809-square-foot, three-level home is certainly spacious, its outward appearance, at first glance, is downright cozy.

If the exterior is all about camouflaging size, the interior is all about accentuating curves. "The owners requested round spaces anywhere we could put them," Rowland says. "The entry vestibule introduces the circular theme immediately." Flanked by built-in, curved benches, that vestibule is the opening act in the entry experience. The headliner is the spacious central hall beyond, dominated by a majestic

staircase that provides the first clue to the home's vast proportions. The stairs serve as the central core of the home, leading down to the lower level, designed for bedrooms and the home theater, and up to a circular hallway, which houses the master suite and a bedroom wing. Stairs from the upper level in turn lead to the traditional widow's walk.

"That staircase is an architectural wonderment," says interior designer Kathleen Hay, who worked with Rowland on the project. To complement his refined design without going overboard on formality, Hay dressed the entry walls with simple recessed panels.

"I wanted to make things elegant yet comfortable," she says. "Panels are gracious and formal, but a simple recess makes them less so. Once you leave the public areas at the entry and move through the house to the family-oriented spaces, things like beaded board on the walls speak to the more casual side of Nantucket."

CUSTOM BUILT-INS Banquettes sized to fit corners, *above*, add comfortable seating to the entry. Paneled wainscoting unifies the space. **GLAMOROUS TURNS** At the top of the entry staircase, *opposite*, spiral stairs lead to the widow's walk.

RECESSED PANELING

Use wainscoting to add a traditional finish to an entry staircase.





Mick Rowland
Architect

SMALL TALK

BIGGER MAY BE BETTER, BUT ARCHITECT MICK ROWLAND STILL THINKS IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP SCALE IN MIND.

Q This is a vast property. How did you decide where to site the house?

A There was a lot of land to play with, but the decision to place the house on top of this particular hill was a fairly easy one. It was the biggest space and provided wonderful views of the moors from many of the rooms. The other hill sites were much smaller.

Q There's nothing small about this house. How did you prevent it from feeling imposing?

A It's important for a house to feel welcoming regardless of how large it is. This house doesn't become overwhelming because we made sure the profile that was visible from public roads was as narrow as possible. Orientation and an angular layout were key.

Q Any other tips?

A We use porches quite a bit because everybody loves them. And they keep the height of a building feeling lower because of their low, transitional roofs.



RICHLY DETAILED In the living room, *this photo*, crisp white paint highlights the traditional embellishments of a coffered ceiling and recessed panels on the wainscoting, mantel, and overmantel.



INTEREST OVERHEAD
 Add interest to an expanse of ceiling with beaded board and a focal-point chandelier.



Custom touches

Rowland varied the ceiling heights and architectural details, both to downplay the scale of the rooms and to enrich the spaces. For the family room, this meant repeating the living room's coffered ceiling and handsomely detailed mantel but eliminating the wainscoting and overmantel for a more casual effect.

The architect gave the adjacent octagonal dining room a conservatory feel, courtesy of a combination of double-hung windows and French doors. The vaulted ceiling, clad in beaded board, contributes to the room's airy quality. Hay chose a shell-trimmed, candle-style chandelier for soft, diffuse overhead lighting.

In another nod to the owners' desire for circles and curves, Rowland designed a rounded hallway wall with built-in display shelves constructed of mahogany and cabinets with raised-panel doors. Shelves are sized to accommodate the owners' collection of large shells and coral.

EASY ACCESS A wide cased opening connects the family room, above, with the dining room. **CURVED DISPLAY** A hallway built-in, left, creates space for a striking array. **FINE DINING** Walls of windows capture the view from the dining room, opposite.



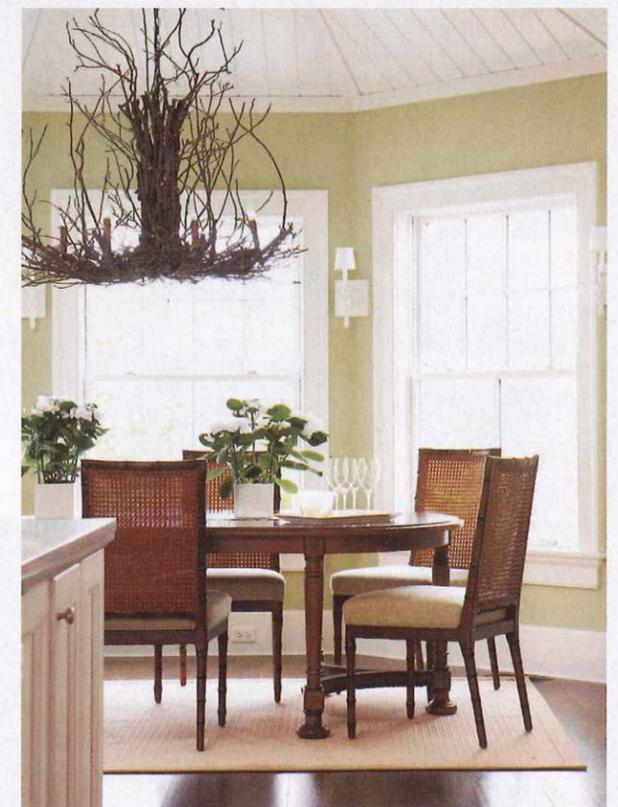
Grand central

A skylight-studded cathedral ceiling admits streams of natural light and defines the kitchen, which anchors the public wing of the house. A walk-through space, it boasts an open connection to the upper-level play area. "The challenge with this space was that it had to be adaptable and work with all the spaces that radiate off of it," Hay says.

And it does. Simple Shaker-style cabinetry recalls the paneling in the home's entry, while column details on the 12-foot-long islands replicate cabinetry found in the adjoining family room. Illuminated by five drum lights, the islands are testaments to the room's size and hardworking nature.

"To offset the expanse of the working space, I wanted to create an intimate spot for eating," Rowland says of the breakfast room, which echoes the octagon of the dining room. Like its larger cousin, the breakfast room features a vaulted, planked ceiling, though here the planks are laid vertically rather than horizontally.

AIRY AMBIENCE A curved railing, *opposite*, embellishes the kitchen and play area. **GRAND SCALE** Drum lights, *above*, echo the curve of the balcony. **CASUAL DINING** A twig chandelier, *right*, personalizes the breakfast area.





EXTERIOR WOODS

Wood selection and maintenance are keys to a properly constructed and well-maintained Shingle-style house. Architect Mick Rowland specifies red cedar for the trim, which is normally painted every three to five years with a superior-quality exterior paint. The architect calls for mahogany or a dense, mahogany-type wood for the decking, which is finished with a clear preservative. Balusters and posts are normally constructed from red cedar and painted, while the railing, which can be painted or sealed, is mahogany. Because of local codes, gutters are wood, painted to match the trim.

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Rear view

Mixing the key architectural elements of Shingle style creates a surprisingly modest facade. Rowland visually reduced the impact of the structure and roofline by designing the house with wings, including a circular tower, and breaking up the roofline with gables and shed-roof dormers.

Adding to the appeal and visually "downsizing" the house are the exterior stairs—which lead to a landing and then down to the main-level deck—and the pairing of muted single and double French doors.

As decks and porches are integral to the appeal of vacation homes, Rowland paid particular attention to adding traditional detailing such as routed-head post caps and baseboard-style plinths.

Architect **Mick Rowland** Landscape architect **Ernst Land Design**
Interior designer **Kathleen Hay** Builder **Josh Brown**

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PICTURESQUE FACADE The mix of windows—six-over-one and 12-over-two, *above*—contributes to the Shingle-style charm. The design pushes the lower railing forward to create a sense of entry for the covered area, which is sheltered by the deck above.

Ultimate retreat

Architect Mick Rowland designed this vacation home with a large master suite, a separate two-story wing for other bedrooms, generous living and family rooms, and outdoor spaces for relaxed living and entertaining.

Quiet corner

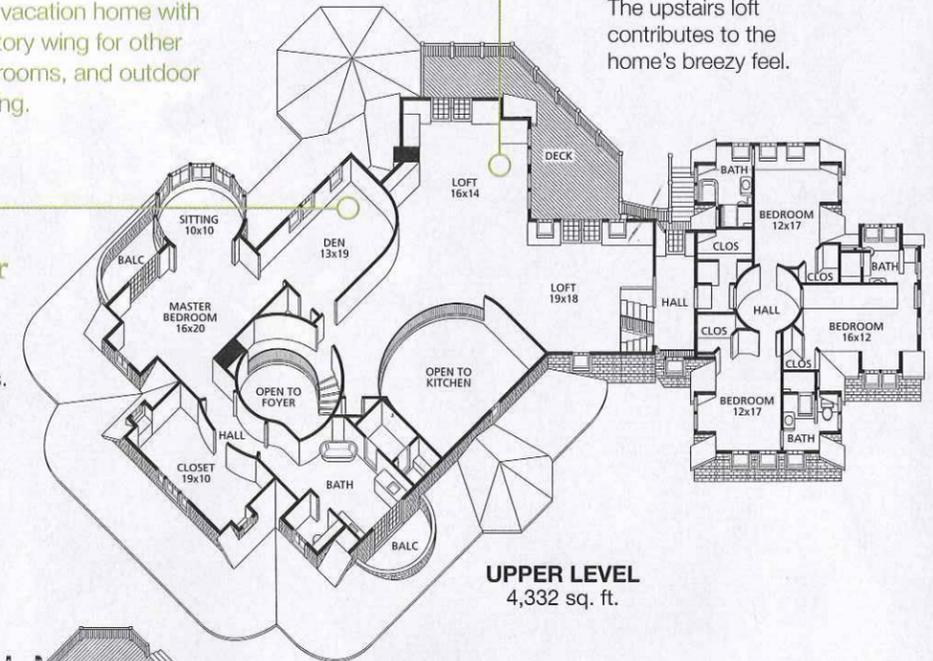
An upstairs den ensures space for reading, working, or watching movies.

Natural light

Windows give the dining room a conservatory feel.

Open spaces

The upstairs loft contributes to the home's breezy feel.



Room to bask

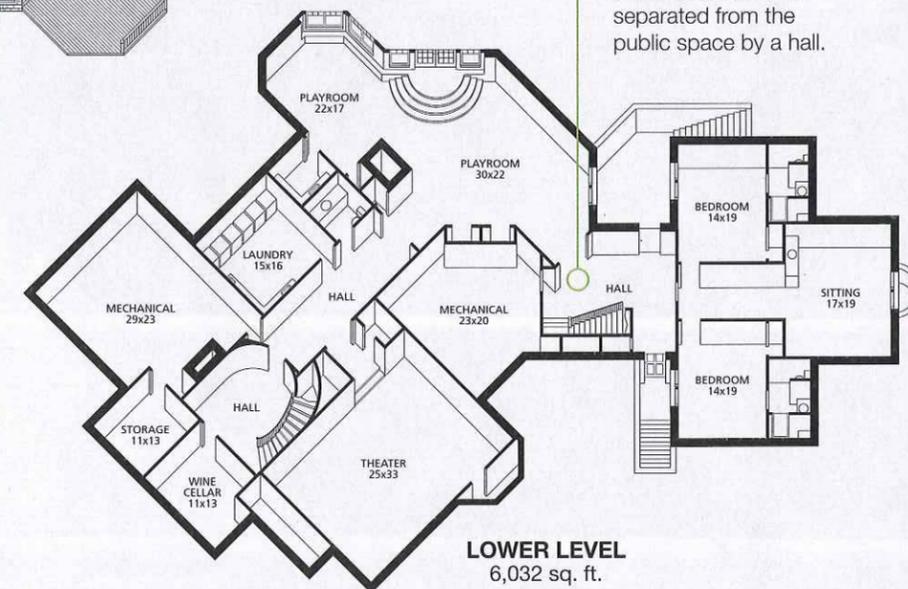
Part of this deck is covered by the one above; the rest is open to the coastal sun.

Private wing

Guest bedrooms are separated from the public space by a hall.

Casual dining

Sized for coziness, the breakfast area off the kitchen opens to a deck.



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