

ULTIMATE MAKEOVER ISSUE: SIMPLE WAYS TO TRANSFORM EVERY ROOM

COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS

Cottages & Bungalows

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CHIC SHACK

Innovative homeowners abandon plans to destroy an old fisherman's shack to build a modern home in its place. Instead, they used it to create a cozy beach cottage.

BY TORREY KIM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG PREMUR
STYLED BY WENDY VALLIERE

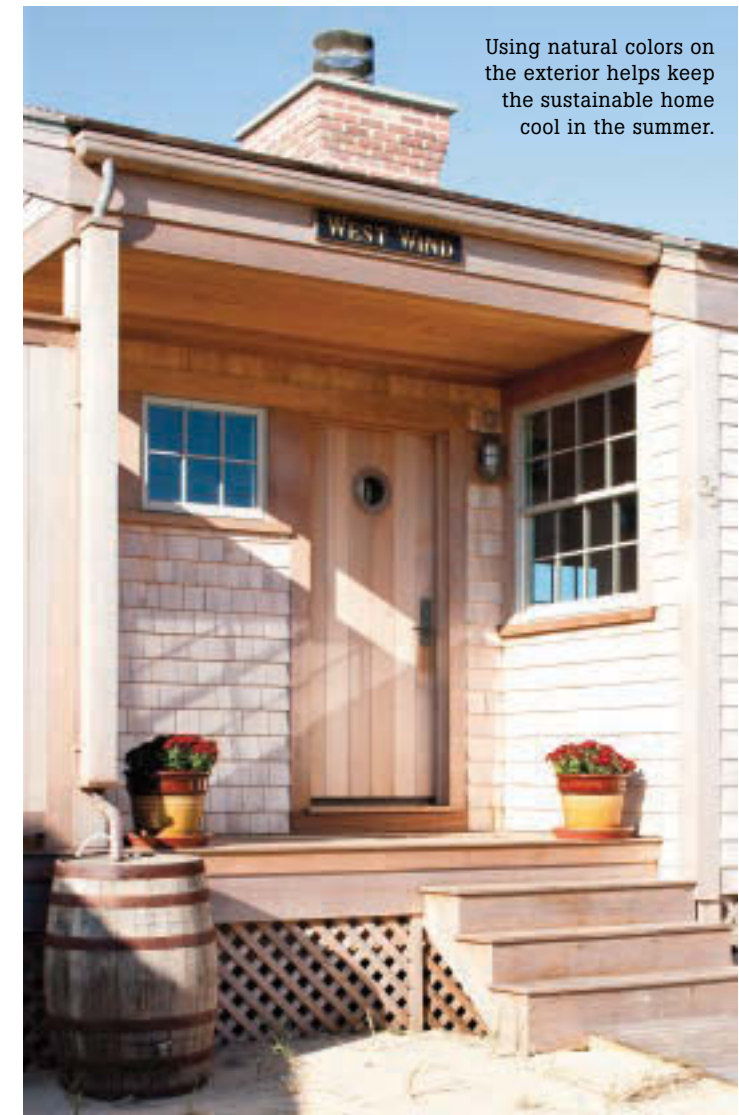
MOST HOMEOWNERS WOULD NOT consider asking their guests to sleep on their dining-room table, but in this Nantucket cottage, visitors are happy to rest in the kitchen, where the dining table lowers hydraulically to become the base for a queen-size guest bed. Simple innovations like this are what transforms this century-old fisherman's shack into an amazing New England retreat.

REEVALUATING PLANS

When Kim and Ted Goodnow first discovered this early 1900s Nantucket fisherman's shack, it had been abandoned for years and was so close to the ocean it was at risk of falling in. The couple bought the property and made plans to raze the shack and replace it with a larger two-story home that would accommodate their family of five.

That's when fate stepped in. Ted, who owns WoodMeister, a master building company based in Massachusetts, was meeting with architect Matthew Moger of Moger Mehrhof Architects about another project. Moger mentioned to Ted that his dream project was to refurbish a New England fisherman's shack without removing the spirit of the original architecture. He then showed Ted a photograph of what he thought was the quintessential fisherman's cottage on Nantucket—and it was the same home Ted had purchased.

Opposite: One of the unique features of this cottage is the custom-made dining table that folds down to make room for a guest bed.



Using natural colors on the exterior helps keep the sustainable home cool in the summer.

“The whole house is basically built like a little jewelry box inside,” Kim says. “At just about 1,000 square feet, **every finish was made from materials we loved.**”

Friends of the cottage owners pulled a large piece of black walnut driftwood from a river in Mississippi, and designer Wendy Valliere designed a plan to repurpose it into this beautiful mantel that Woodmeister custom created.

"I told him I had this romantic idea of keeping the design as it was rather than replacing it with a huge home on the water," Moger explains. "We could redesign it to create a great piece of architecture that still appears indigenous to the area, paint it all white inside, keep the existing home and garage looking over the harbor and bring together all of the structures to modernize the whole place."

The Goodnows quickly agreed. "That was very bold of them to take that leap after they had spent time and money developing the other project," Moger says. "Spiritually, I relate very much to the quintessential fisherman's shack, where you can get sand on the floor and just sweep it out. With that in mind, we also knew this was a whole family, so we designed the home in a way that every square inch of space was utilized."

A SHORT RELOCATION

Before the remodel could happen, the Goodnows had to move the home 50 feet

back from the ocean. "We had such great views of the water after putting the home on piers and relocating it, and it was then that we were confident that keeping the character of the building was the right thing to do," Kim says. "To further keep the character of the structure, we not only used as much of the existing home as we could, but

we also made the cottage completely sustainable, which allowed us to get a U.S. Green Building Award Gold Certification."

To achieve that, the Goodnows installed a geothermal heating and cooling system, instituted composting toilets and used recycled aluminum tiles in the shower. They created custom cabinets out of bamboo, and



before

Another space-saving feature in this home is found in the guest bedroom, where a Murphy bed folds down when required.



Using the home's original footprint allowed the family to maintain amazing views of the water—one of the hallmarks of this cottage.

the kitchen counter material is made from recycled plastic bottles.

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USING EVERY INCH

The Goodnows drew their inspiration for using all of the existing space in the home by thinking of how a yacht is laid out—each item in a boat has more than one purpose. That's how the idea of the dining table lowering to become a guest bed came to be (once the tabletop is at the correct height, the bench cushions pull out to function as the mattress). "We also turned the garage into a master bedroom and put the bathroom right in the same room to make it work," Ted says. "Moger's idea of giving each space dual purpose was a good move because we really were able to visualize how this was a better alternative to building something that didn't feel like it belonged on the coast."

"To further keep the character of the structure, we not only used as much of the existing home as we could, **but we also made the cottage completely sustainable.**"

Keeping the limited space and the family's commitment to a green home in mind, designer Wendy Valliere of Seldom Scene Interiors kept things simple in her design of the home's interior. "This cottage is a juxtaposition of casual rustic and trendy, edgy modern," she explains. "The use of matte and shiny finishes in the bedroom added to the beachy glamour. I tried to use sustainable products such as mother-of-pearl inlays and white pearl onyx on the vanities."

When it came down to the necessities, the Goodnows realized how few things they



Featuring countertops recycled from plastic bottles, bamboo cabinets, recycled aluminum tiles and filtered water throughout, this kitchen is one of the ways the family was able to keep the cottage modern while still "green."

The home's white interior contributes to an ultra-clean interior. Crisp white linens add to the serene look.

actually required. "At the peak last summer, we had our three kids and two of their friends with us, which meant we had seven people in less than 1,000 square feet, and it didn't feel crowded," Ted says. "It's so important to think carefully about whether versatility and multipurpose possibilities have been fully considered be-

fore adding square footage to a home." When the cottage was completed, the family was able to immediately relax in their newly transformed environment. "We just exhale when we get there," Kim says. "It's not perfect and has a few little defects that we love that were original to the existing space, but it suits us so perfectly." **CB**

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Five Easy Ways to Make the Most OF A SMALL SPACE

Small cottages usually include wonderful nooks and cozy spaces. However, it is possible to enjoy the flexibility that comes when rooms look bigger than they actually are. Wendy Valliere of Seldom Scene Interiors shares the following advice for cottage owners.

1. FURNITURE SIZE MATTERS

My best advice to make a small space live well and large is to have the correct scale of furniture and a large enough rug. Filling a room with a rug will give you more space to float furniture and take advantage of all the square footage you have. I often use a really textural broadloom and cut it to fit the actual space when a custom rug is too expensive.

2. DECLUTTER

In a small space, clutter is impossible to live in. Use every inch of space in your cottage to store all of your items, and then focus on what must stay and what can go.

3. WATCH YOUR WALL HANGINGS

To make a room look bigger, you should consider hanging a large piece of art with one subject matter rather than hanging multiple small hangings.

4. JUST SAY NO TO KNICKKNACKS

Even a tiny collection can make a room look cramped. Keep your collections stored away if you want your cottage to look bigger.

5. EXPAND OUTSIDE NORMAL BOUNDARIES

Just because your architect designates one room the official kitchen area doesn't mean that your kitchen table can't flow into the next room. You could consider creating a dining area that extends into the living area so you aren't limited to the confines of one room.



The family extended the living area to the outdoor deck, where they enjoy sunsets, meals, and warm summer Nantucket evenings.