Island Time

By linking the interior spaces to the pristine landscape, a sprawling family retreat becomes a tranquil haven.

By Steven Hurvo
Photography by Dennis Duce
Nantucket: Take out your map and look at it. See what a real corner of the world is occupied? exclaims Herman Melville in his legendary work, Moby-Dick. Although he never visited the island, Melville had a notion of the unique connections Nantucket inspires.

If anyone has mastered the art of identifying the dots of connections in Nantucket, it’s Andrew Kendrick, co-founder and principal of architecture and interior design firm Kendrick Tanner. A perforce resident of the island, he has designed more than 150 homes there and instantly senses the nuances of the seemingly homogenous archipelago. “All homes are different,” he notes. “Mashpee is its own village. Disconnected from the action and crowds.”

Mirroring the sense of simplicity and seclusion of its surroundings served as the inspiration to design a family retreat on a vacant parcel abutting conservation land on Nantucket’s west side village of Mashpee. The seasonal retreat was designed to be a place where family and friends could gather, inside and outside the property, effortlessly flowing between spaces, enjoying privacy and a connection to the land and waters beyond.
On either part of the island, "people build big box houses," says Kochen. In contrast, this compound is seven interconnected pavilions that organically flow like other rocks. The structures provide a feeling of being directly connected to the landscape, but upon entry into the main house, one quickly realizes it is much more than just meets the eye. The house, studio, and greenhouse all seamlessly connect with one another through multiple outdoor spaces. From an immense solar array to the greenhouse, basking and cooling, its material and artistic design is both striking and sustainable. The living areas, both indoor and outdoor, have been thoughtfully laid out to provide views across the neighboring conservation land, out to Malahat Harbor and the Atlantic beyond. While the spanning main house comprises more than 8,000 square feet, a series of connected "islands" - as one would encounter in 18th and 19th century residences - make the home feel cozy and informal. Tarkett, Valnord, and fumed granite surround the infinity pool and hot tub, as well as their seating areas, two of which frame the fireplace. Kochen notes that additional soil was brought to the site to create elevations that provide privacy and raise the pool. Used primarily as a summer residence, the outdoor space was designed to highlight the unobstructed views of the Atlantic Ocean and magical Malahat coast.

A focal point of the main house is the striking vertical staircase. Glass, oak, and concrete make the three-story central structure, anchored by blueberry river rocks on the lower level. Visible upon entry from both the front and side doors, the staircase provides an opportunity to introduce many of the compelling materials that exist throughout the home. Petra Cardone - a Dutch-Guyanese residence - along with glass, marble, composite, oak, and steel were used throughout from the bedrooms to the kitchen with a goal of creating impact through opposition.

"The interior of this residence was largely informed by the unique context and coastal setting. The dominant feature of the palette features cool tones and warm neutrals, as well as some more saturated hues directly tied to the landscape," says Kochen. "The balance between the ocean and nature preserve surrounding the site gave us the opportunity to create a home that was not only serene but also simple, clean and modern."

The kitchen was one of the most important elements in the house, as the client has a passion for cooking," says Kochen. The space features a 14-foot-long island surrounded by professional-grade appliances, including a Gaggenau Smeg oven, a 60-inch Capital Gutermann range and an Argentine-style grill, all set under a unique glass ceiling. Custom-designed oak millwork with steel hardware hides many of the appliances and combined with the Petra Cardone cabinets, create a coastal setting.

"It just all works," says Kochen. "It's been understanding the location allowed the design to maximize views, natural sunlight and site topography. Kochen had the pleasure of spending a summer day with the family. He observed that "everyone literally flows from one place to the other." One can see the compound blooming with family and friends seamlessly connecting with each other, the land and the sea beyond.■

RESOURCES

BLATT BILLIARDS
Game room pool table
blattbilliards.com

MICHHELL GOLDS + BOB WILLIAMS
Sitting area outlet chains
michellebol.com

ONE DREAY THREE
Kitchen, shaded products
onedreathythree.com

RH MODERN
Dining table
rhmorden.com

ROOM
Pool lounge chair cushions
rooom.com

SUITE NY
Kitchen stools
suiteny.com

TEAK WAREHOUSE
Chelsea lounge
TEAKwarehouse.com

VANGUARD FURNITURE
Living room, recliner
vanguardfurniture.com

STYLE SOURCEBOOK

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family vacation home

LOCATION
Nanaimo, B.C.

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN
Workhaus Collaborative
workhausbc.com

BUYER
Ivy Builders
webnbuilders.com

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