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## Martha's Vineyard Home with Natural Style

Liz Stiving-Nichols designs a vacation home on Martha's Vineyard that speaks to the island's vernacular.

Written by Charlotte Safavi



"My clients had wanted a house on Martha's Vineyard for years," says interior designer Liz Stiving-Nichols, who, along with Hutker Architects, became involved in the vacation home before ground was broken. "When they finally took the plunge, they wanted the house to seem like it had always been there—to be at one with the island's perennial elements."



*The family calls the side entrance to the home the "Dairy Barn." The photography and a rustic bench support that playful moniker.*

And that's what the home turned out to be. The expansive, five-bedroom shingled house overlooking the Atlantic Ocean fits the area like a glove, thanks to careful selection of exterior materials and finishes. Inside, reclaimed oak beams and floors, V-groove ceilings, paneled walls, and hand-wrought masonry create a similar feel. Woodwork stained soft gray with a matte finish takes on the appearance of weathered shingles.



*French doors on the library draw the beautiful view and ocean breeze inside.*

The homeowners entertain frequently, so a game table from the great room's music area was custom-matched in width, height, and tabletop to be joined to the dining table as needed, seating up to 20 guests.



On the home's main level, which houses all but one of the bedrooms, barn-style doors lead from the great room to the kitchen.



*The kitchen's design has a contemporary rusticity, with Shaker-style cabinets, white bronze hardware from Rocky Mountain Hardware, and a contrasting wood tray ceiling.*



*The homeowners had requested open upper shelving for a casual look. Simple square-seated stools from McGuire in custom slipcovers from Holly Hunt perpetuate that relaxed feeling, pulling up to smooth concrete countertops.*



*A casual dining table, Lloyd Loom chairs, and a sleek built-in cabinet enhance the home's vacation home aesthetic—and allow the emphasis to fall on the view.*



*The powder room has a more industrial look.*

Upstairs, a master summer suite transforms into an indoor-outdoor room, with the two areas connected by glass doors.



*The upstairs master suite is designed around a central Western red-cedar core that houses a walk-in closet, drawered storage, and vanity.*



*Bathroom floors, walls, and vessel sinks are limestone.*



*The bedroom opens to a sleeping porch by way of NanaWall doors.*

The home's bluffside location takes advantage of the scenery. "Of course, the spectacular views were formative in our design," Stiving-Nichols says. "We wanted to maximize them without having anything that visually competed."



*Like most rooms in the house, the downstairs master suite was designed to play to the home's extraordinary views. Custom pillows atop the platform bed are made of a mix of fabrics from Donghia, Lee Jofa, and Chelsea Editions.*



*A pair of mirrors flank a small window, to avoid losing the view.*

To establish a feeling of relaxed elegance, the designer employed clean lines, weathered finishes, and calming colors. Jute rugs and soft linens, and a mix of wood, limestone, and wrought-iron elements come together in serene, sophisticated, and highly textural decor.