

Cape Cod Magazine

Martha's Vineyard & Nantucket

Great Rooms

When Vision, Design and Construction Colide

Flying High

Spring Fling

Exploring Nantucket's Daffodil Festival

Pearl St. Revolution

Artist Sarah Holl takes on Hyannis



Great Rooms



SHELLY HARRISON

Large open spaces such as this great room flow with the other rooms in this Osterville house and serve as the hub of the home.

Faded are the days of ladies' parlors and men's smoking rooms, formal living rooms reserved for priceless art and special guests, and casual dens for kids and TV dinners. The past few decades have been all about great rooms—large, open spaces conversant with dining areas, kitchens, reading corners, and breakfast nooks.

Though some have sounded the death knell for these hallmarks of open concept living, they remain a steadfast component of contemporary

architecture. With busier lives and scattered family members the norm, it is more important than ever to have a gathering space where everyone can relax together where party guests can mingle unimpeded by walls and where those cooking can chat with those lounging.

Though bearing an all-encompassing name that sometimes translates into a vacuous, sterile space, great rooms are not one size fits all. —Laurel Kornhiser

A CENTRAL FOCUS



SHELLY HARRISON

Sailors set a course by charting a general heading toward their chosen harbor. The actual voyage, though, can involve numerous directional adjustments like a gibe here or a tack there. So, too, the design of this mid-Cape home had many reconsiderations and adjustments in its design.

The homeowner's vision and blueprint set the course, and over eighteen months, the project organically evolved. First the framework was tweaked, then the design was modified, then the details were fine-tuned. The homeowner "wanted to be part of the process," says architect Anthony Ferragamo. "My challenge was to design something that could evolve as it was being built."

The collaboration among the client, Ferragamo, Northern Heritage Builders, and their finish carpenter, Chris Docekal, was so successful that the home was a finalist for a 2008 Best in American Living Award, sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders and Professional Builder magazine.

The approach was both "classic and contemporary," Ferragamo says. Classical symmetry is seen in such details as the twinned columns, two chimneys, dual end gables, and paired upper decks on the ocean side of the home. But the home's focal point is the contemporary great room: "The whole house revolves around the great room," Ferragamo says. "Everything

BY LAUREL KORNHISER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
SHELLY HARRISON AND
ALISON CARON

became spokes off that wheel.”

The challenge was not only to allow for breathing space in the design process but also to take large architectural spaces and place them on a human scale. The open foyer, which broadens into the great room, has what Ferragamo calls “considerable height.” Details such as coffered ceilings and second floor balconies that cut a horizontal line tame its proportions. A broad-faced wall that rises alongside the staircase receives a visual adjustment by an arrangement of what looks like petrified coral but which are actually cuts from swamp mahogany stumps, the sixty-pound pieces ingeniously installed by Docekal.

Appealing to the sense of touch also keeps the spaces warm. Though an Italian tile originally had been chosen for the floor that sweeps from the foyer into the great room and then through to the adjoining kitchen and

(Right) Twinned columns give the home a sense of classical symmetry (Below) Mary LeBlanc of Cotuit used hydrangeas, azaleas, and rhododendrons as well as copses of cedar and locust trees in the landscape design.



“The whole house revolves around the great room,” Ferragamo says. “Everything became spokes off that wheel.”

PHOTOS BY ALISON CARON, OPPOSITE SHELLY HARRISON

A bird's eye view of the great room from the second floor balcony.

dining areas, the client fell in love with and switched to stone blocks from an old building in France. The first cut is now an earthen floor tile, while the polished inside cut became the fireplace facing.

Balancing the hardness of stone are sculptural shapes, textured drapes and upholstery, and furnishings and accents made of wood. The wood dining, sofa, and accent tables are rougher cuts polished to gleam. While the kitchen counters are soapstone, the island is made of oak, as is the mantel seen across the way. Even the trim has texture: "All the trim has been sandblasted to give it the feeling of old furniture," Ferragamo

Architect: Anthony Ferragamo, Mashpee, 508-477-6223

Builder: Northern Heritage Builders, Hyannis, 508-775-4353, www.northernheritage.com

Landscape Architect: Mary LeBlanc, Cotuit, 508-428-1274

Furniture and appointments: SLC Interiors, South Hamilton, 978-468-4330, www.slccinteriors.com

explains. The repetition of materials unifies the home's sprawling spaces, outfitted with help from SLC Interiors of South Hamilton, Massachusetts.

While a prominent site overlooking broad Nantucket Sound easily accommodates a stately shingle-style home, key to this project was offering the ease of 5500 square feet of living space—including a first floor guest suite and reading room and four bedrooms upstairs—while suggesting more intimate quarters.



Soapstone counters and an oak island add texture to the kitchen.

SHELLY HARRISON

Adrene
JEWELERS

An exquisite collection of diamond, colored gemstone, gold, silver & estate jewelry.



QUALITY DIAMONDS
COLORED STONES
JEWELRY & WATCHES
ESTATE JEWELRY
CUSTOM REMOUNTING

Stephen A. Albright, Graduate Gemologist, PG, AJP
1198 Route 28, Hearth & Kettle Plaza, South Yarmouth, MA 02664
508.394.0470 www.adrenejewelers.com

SPECIALIZING IN JEWELRY SALES, PURCHASES, REPAIRS, RESTORATION, WATCH REPAIRS & APPRAISALS



COASTAL
-N-
COUNTERS

Your Countertop Experts

DUPONT CORIAN • SILESTONE • CAMBRIA • PAPERSTONE • ECOTOPS
681 Falmouth Road, Mashpee ~ 508-539-3500 ~ www.coastalncounters.net



The home's exterior uses double moldings, woven corners, and detailed eaves to hold down the scale.

ALISON CARON

Mullioned windows, detailed trim, and doorknobs placed higher than is standard help to humanize the scale.

The bedroom suite, so often taking up half a floor in a house this size, is modest compared to the great room. Still, the bedroom's crisp whites, its clean, uncluttered look, and its private deck create the perfect perch for private water gazing. On the home's exterior, different jogs in the architecture, double moldings, woven corners, and

Copses of cedars and groupings of other Cape-friendly plants, like hydrangeas, azaleas, and rhododendrons, help settle this home into an area of long-established residences.

detailed eaves hold down the scale and "give the house a nicer hat."

Mary LeBlanc of Cotuit designed a landscape with locust trees as focal points. Copses of cedars and groupings of other Cape-friendly plants, like hydrangeas, azaleas, and rhododendrons, help settle this home into an area of long-established residences.

The home comes as a planned surprise, the end point of a winding lane that leads to a teardrop driveway. "The idea was to come in and turn, and bang, the house hits you," Ferragamo says. The next pleasant surprise occurs when you ascend three broad stone steps, pass through the foyer, and into the great room awash in biscuits, sands, and creams, a serene spot for viewing the ever-changing seascape just outside. 🌊



MARBLE
GRANITE
SLATE
LIMESTONE

Cape Cod Marble & Granite

Specializing in Granite Counters, Large Inventory of Slabs

SOAP STONE • BUY DIRECT

Visit our Designer Showroom

38 Rosary Lane, Hyannis 508.771.2900

CATAUMET SAW MILL

Award Winning Reclaimed Antique Flooring on Cape Cod



PHOTO BY KATIE KAIZER

Cataumet Saw Mill of Cape Cod
494 Thomas Landers Road
East Falmouth, MA 02536
508.457.9239
www.cataumetsawmill.com