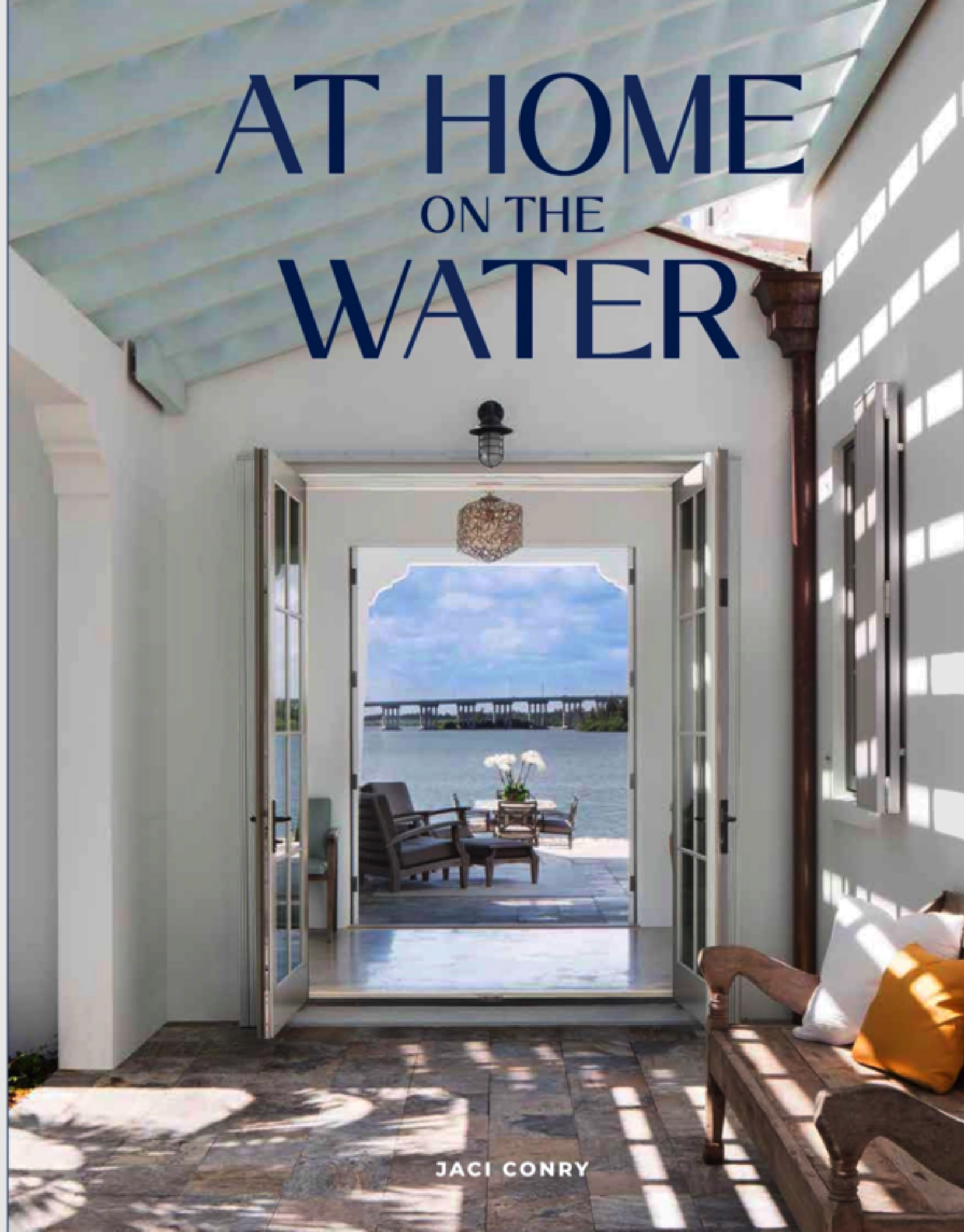


# AT HOME ON THE WATER



JACI CONRY

# AT HOME ON THE WATER

JACI CONRY



GIBBS SMITH  
TO ENRICH AND INSPIRE HUMANKIND

For Mike, Max, and Emma: Anywhere you are is home to me



NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

# DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANE BEILES

Situated at the end of a long, sandy drive, this secluded home has direct access to a beach that few people are aware exists. On Nantucket, homes with such close access to the ocean are scarce, and when the homeowners discovered this property was for sale two decades ago, they felt unbelievably lucky.

At the time the homeowners purchased the property, there were two structures on-site: a long, rectangular beach cottage that wasn't winterized and a tiny square shedlike building with baseboard heating. Nantucket's rigid building codes—designed to ensure that the island's historic architecture is preserved—stipulated that the structures could be renovated, but they had to stay within the original footprint. Fortunately, to gain space, the homeowners were able to add a second story to the two-bedroom cottage, doubling the home's square footage.

Hallmarks of coastal New England's historic cottage-style architecture abound, including walls paneled with shiplap and wainscoting. On the main level, the original ceiling beams remain exposed,

infusing the rooms with volume, distinction, and a sense of nostalgia.

Clad on the exterior with cedar shingles that weather with each passing year and topped with a cedar-shake roof, the house is a summer retreat for the family, which now includes grandchildren. "Our son lives in Nashville and our daughter is in Chicago with her three children," says the wife. "Every summer we all spend time together at the house. It's a special place for us."

The homeowners are antiques enthusiasts, and the place is filled with cherished furniture and accents. After their children had grown up, the couple tapped Michelle Holland of Nantucket House Antiques & Interior Design Studio to help revamp the home's aesthetic. "When you have so many special pieces like they do, it can be hard to know where to put things," says Holland. "We focused on displaying their collectibles in an order where they can be appreciated."

An assemblage of doorstops fashioned as sailors, for example, are now arranged in the living

The house is filled with decorative objects, including this wall-mounted green clock and a sailor's valentine crafted of countless tiny shells.





room's built-in shelves, on which a series of rattan and wood Nantucket lightship baskets woven by the wife's father in the 1980s also hold a place of prominence. Maritime art in a range of styles, including impressionistic, folk art, and hand carvings, pay homage to Nantucket's nautical roots. Other elements nod to the coastal locale in an understated and occasionally whimsical way, including a series of plates festooned with lobsters. Brass ship lights and other antique lighting, including gas fixtures in the foyer that Holland had electrified, provide both illumination and a timeless sense of place.

While a house filled with antiques is not always considered comfortable, the homeowners strove to ensure that theirs is a relaxing haven. "This is a family

home first and foremost, and the main objective was that it be comfortable," says Holland. Upholstered furniture provides plenty of space to lounge, and hooked rugs that the wife passionately collects feel soft underfoot, due to their decades of use.

In the living room, a square table where the grandchildren play games—sometimes with their parents and grandparents—is nestled up close to a window overlooking the vast swath of beach and ocean, which provides the stunning backdrop to their life at the house. "Even when we're not outside," says the wife, "we're always appreciating the setting."

**OPPOSITE:** Nestled in the dunes, the house is privileged to have direct access to a private beach. **ABOVE:** The new stair runner had to have a "hand-done look for it to work with all of the antique rugs in the house," says designer Michelle Holland.



The living room's upholstered furniture is comfortable and casual, perfect for flopping on after a day at the beach. Since the house is in such a remote location, there are no window treatments, allowing maximum views of the sea.



**ABOVE:** The homeowners enjoy playing games at the antique game table with their grandchildren on rainy days. **OPPOSITE:** Built-in shelves showcase the couple's cherished collectibles and books.





**OPPOSITE:** In the second-floor hallway, a slim sofa is oriented toward a band of French doors and windows that overlook the ocean. **ABOVE:** The home's weathered-shingle exterior is unassuming and rustic, reminiscent of a time gone by.