



Seaside Renovation



The homeowners of this seaside cottage felt that the existing spaces were too small and too separated from one another to suit their needs. They have a large extended family and wanted to be able to spend time together while on vacation. They desired larger, more open spaces with a kitchen prominent as the "heart" of the home. They did not want a dining table per se but requested casual seating at a bar located adjacent to the kitchen area and a large kitchen island for seating. Because of its proximity to the ocean, a nautical motif runs throughout the home; the family room's teak ceiling is reminiscent of the hull of a ship, a gold leaf weathervane in the shape of a ship graces the top of the stone turret and a marble compass rose is inlaid in the floor of the art studio. Blues of the sea and sky are used in the furnishings and paint colors.



House Information:

Location: North Hampton, N.H.

Program: The original portion of the home was a small barn dating back to the 1890s. The home had been renovated and added on to several times over the past decades with very little over all planning or forethought.

Site Description: The home is situated across the street from the ocean and a beautiful beach. It is a long narrow lot set behind another home and cannot be seen from the road. Here is a narrow sliver of a view between the front homes as well as prime views from the second floor.

Special Constraints: A portion of the existing house was constructed over one of the building setbacks. Expansion of the footprint had to be carefully planned and negotiated with the local zoning board. There was also a maximum building height of 28 feet that had to be taken into consideration.

Design Solution: A portion of the home that was constructed in the 1980s was torn down and reconstructed in a similar location but with a revised footprint to be considered more conforming the zoning requirements. This permitted greater flexibility in expanding the square footage to allow for opening up the living spaces as well as orienting the main spaces towards the views and sunlight.

The owner is an artist and requested some sort of tower for his art studio. We used the opportunity to create a space for him as well as design a more impressive entrance for the home. The former entrance to the home was very non-descript.

We took the opportunity to enhance the aesthetics of the exterior of the home both with roof lines as well as architectural details.

Materials Used:

- White cedar pre-dipped shingles
- Copper flashing
- Local fieldstone
- Five inch oak flooring
- Mahogany and teak wood accent