

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

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Culture is all around us, everywhere and all the time. It encompasses far more than just where we grew up, our religion and our heritage. “Culture can be the music you listen to, or the literature that inspires you,” says Amy Andrews of Hilton Interiors. “Culture is an appreciation of all the many aspects that make us who we are. It’s inevitable that it’s incorporated in our homes. It’s part of our very being.”

A house, too, can have something akin to a culture, stemming from where it’s located and the natural environment surrounding it. “Is it a suburban family house, a seaside vacation home, a city apartment or a mountain top retreat? Our homes have a natural connection to the culture that exists where they are geographically located,” Amy says. “It’s almost a given that the culture of what is outside will be woven into the inside and reflect the homeowners’ lifestyle. Wherever a home is, the outside environment makes its way in.”



Amy’s design for this client’s second home in Martha’s Vineyard incorporated elements that represent and speak to each family member and their multifaceted personal culture, while fully embracing the cozy seaside culture that is the hallmark of the small island’s residents. The use of white as the primary palette color imparts a clean, crisp look to the home’s main living spaces. It also allows Amy to use color to amazing effect, alternately creating rooms with a luxurious glamour, as in the master and guest bedrooms, and more modern, almost whimsical spaces, as in the breakfast room and study. A covered enclosed porch and an adjacent covered patio take advantage of the home’s ocean views; Amy creates a visual connection between the two with the wood-and-wicker furnishings featuring bright cerulean upholstery. When the doors are opened, two spaces become one, creating a single, seamless outdoor living space that offers plenty of room for larger gatherings and entertaining.



Our definition of “home” and all the things that are part of that—a particular painting or set of family photos, the smell of a favorite family meal or fresh-cut flowers, the treasure brought back from an overseas vacation—are tied into our culture. “The more I know about my clients, the more beneficial it is in creating their home,” Amy explains, “and the more I’ll be able to create spaces that reflect their lives and give them the home they are looking for. It was an absolute joy to weave together this client’s cultural elements and to design a home truly fit for this family and their need for an oasis away from their busy lives.”