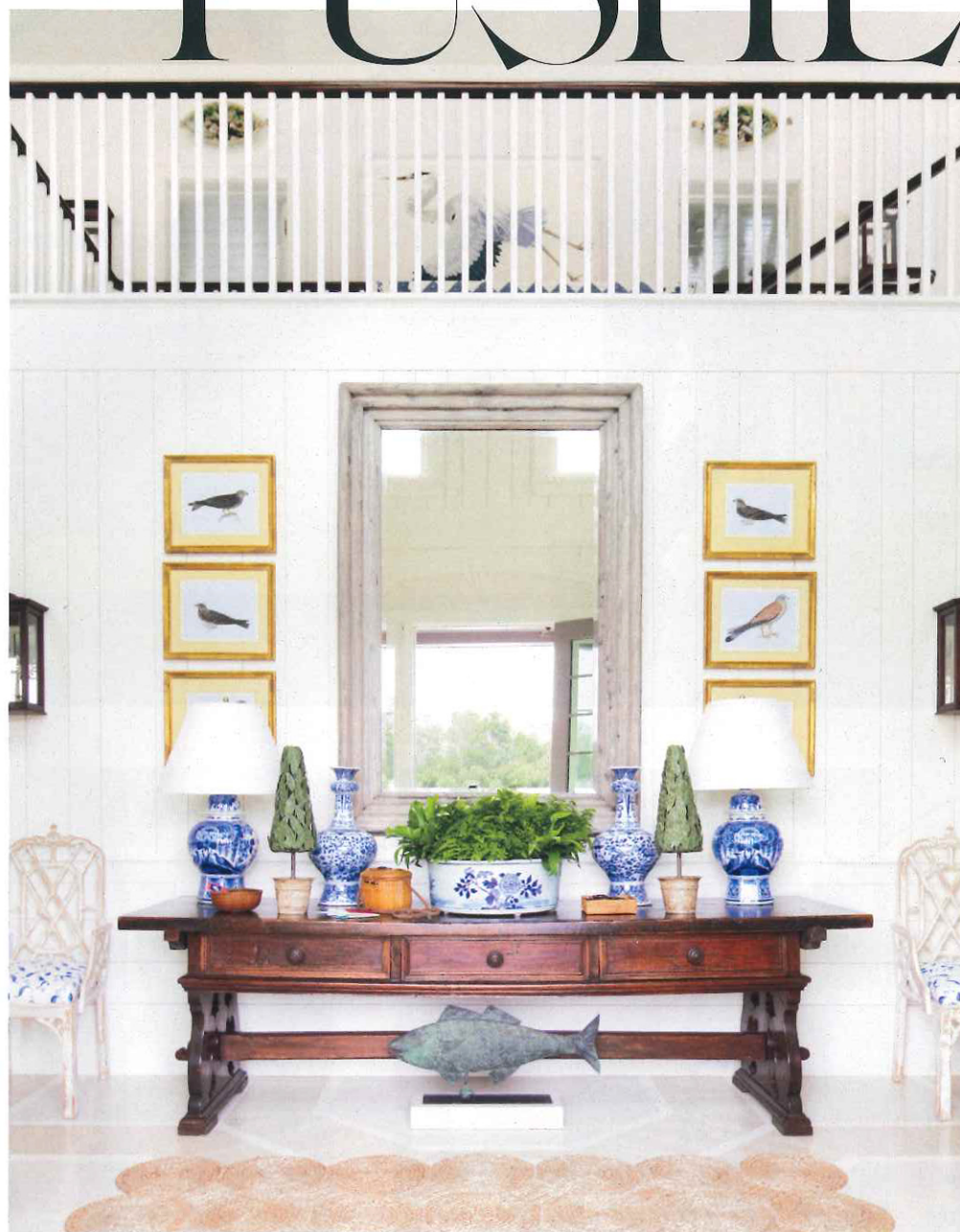


PETAL PUSHER



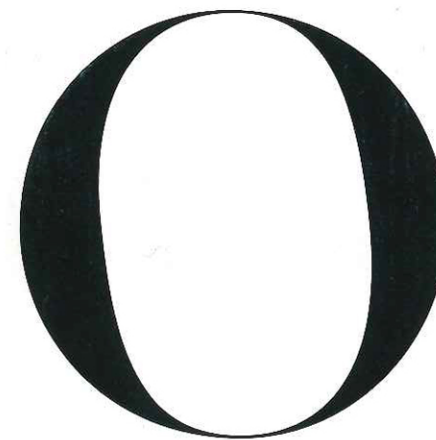
SYMMETRY RULES IN THE ENTRANCE HALL, WHERE A PAIR OF DELFT-VASE LAMPS AND OBJETS D'ART SIT ON AN ANTIQUE TABLE FROM JOHN ROSSELLI ANTIQUES. OPPOSITE PAINTED PANELS BY BOB CHRISTIAN HANG IN THE LIVING ROOM. FOR DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.

Flowered fabrics and floral paintwork bloom inside a Nantucket retreat cultivated by *Markham Roberts*

TEXT BY MITCHELL OWENS PHOTOGRAPHY BY NELSON HANCOCK



CUSTOM DINING CHAIRS ARE SLIPCOVERED IN A NO. 9 THOMPSON LINEN. PAINTED FLOOR BY BOB CHRISTIAN. OPPOSITE IN THE paneled living room, a mix of patterned and printed fabrics covers the custom sofa and pillows. ANTIQUE QUILT.



In the hook-shaped Massachusetts isle of Nantucket, at the edge of a wind-ruffled salt marsh that fades away into the rolling Atlantic, sits a house of flowers. Not an address literally embowered by blossoms, mind you (the acreage is still a work in progress), but a smartly shingled affair with rooms that bring to mind a few

high-summer herbaceous borders turned outside in.

Colorful buds bloom on finely pleated lamp shades and atop a chubby little Napoléon III rope-twist stool. Flowering vines unfurl across the dining room's crisp box-pleated slipcovers and the living room's plump skirted sofas. Florets of undetermined origin sprout on walls, ramble up curtains, coil around cushions, effloresce on quilts, and unfold on a boldly stenciled floor. In a guest bedroom, a screen is inset with images of shaggy pink and red chrysanthemums, the polychrome prints taken from the 1890s *One Hundred Chrysanthemums* series by Japanese master Hasegawa Keika.

As in any fertile demesne, there are butterflies (printed), birds (carved, gilded, painted), and even a frog (sculpted).

Given Nantucket's seafaring industries, there is a fishmonger's worth of artful shellfish and crustaceans, such as the 19th-century Palissy-ware variety that scramble up the powder-room walls like a catch on the loose. Then there are the baskets—dozens of them, it seems—exquisitely woven rattan and cane receptacles that have been an island tradition since the 1830s, many of them fashioned by Susan Chase Ottison, scion of a generations-old hand-weaving dynasty.

"Location matters—it matters a lot" when it comes to decorating, the house's Southern-belle occupant says in a bourbon-and-branch drawl. As for the vintage residence she purchased a few years ago, it was precisely what she, a Nantucket regular since a newlywed trip took her there in the late 1960s, had always desired. "I walked straight through the front door, out into the yard, looked at that marsh, and told my son, 'This house is perfect.'" One exquisitely timed pause later, she deadpans, "Then I knocked it down."

AD100 interior designer Markham Roberts explains, "She lived in it for a summer and realized it wasn't perfect at all." So his client proceeded to build something authentic, still shingled in the island vernacular, but with two scoops of Southern soul—plus dead-level floors and impressive sound-proofing, which the earlier house signally lacked.

"A book about Furlow was the inspiration," she says. That would be Georgia aesthete Furlow Gatewood and *One Man's Folly*, a 2014 celebration of rural charm. His signature wood



ABOVE A STONE PATH LEADS TO A MARSH. ABOVE RIGHT A FLOCK OF PAINTED-WOOD SHOREBIRDS BY PAT GARDNER PERCH



ABOVE THE GUEST BATH'S KALDEWEI TUB. LEFROY BROOKS TUB FILLER; STAR LANTERN BY VAUGHAN.



ABOVE BLUES—FROM THE CURTAINS OF AN AMANDA NISBET DESIGN LINEN TO THE ELIZABETH EAKINS CARPET—SET THE TONE IN AN AIRY BEDROOM. 19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN GILTWOOD CORNUCOPIA; ANTIQUE TRUNK. RIGHT A CUSTOM RUG BY HILLARY ANAPOL ADDS A POP OF COLOR TO A CHILD'S BEDROOM. SMALL CIRCA-1910 ORKNEY CHAIR. LEFT AN ANTIQUE EAGLE WATCHES OVER THE SITTING ROOM. CURTAINS OF A LES INDIENNES FLORAL COTTON; 18TH-CENTURY ENGLISH DESK; JOHN FOWLER RUG.



When it comes to decorating, the lady of the house drawls, “location matters—it matters a lot.”



“I wanted this place to feel like my grandmother’s house, which had beadboard everywhere.”

ABOVE A JOHN ROBshaw TEXTILES LINEN COVERS THE MASTER BATH’S VAULTED CEILING. VINTAGE CHAUFFEUSE. RIGHT IN THE MASTER BEDROOM,

ROBERTS DEPLOYED THE SAME BENNISON FLORAL CHINTZ ON THE WALLS, CURTAINS, LAMP SHADES, PILLOWS, AND VANITY SKIRT.



ABOVE A RAOUL TEXTILES LINEN COVERS THE SEATING AT THE KITCHEN TABLE. CUSTOM POT RACK BY ANN MORRIS. OPPOSITE A PAIR OF 19TH-CENTURY ENGLISH ARMCHAIRS IN A GP & J BAKER STRIPE COZY UP TO THE LIVING-ROOM FIREPLACE. ANTIQUE NEOCLASSICAL MIRROR OVER MANTEL; ANTIQUE FRENCH ROPE STOOL; CUSTOM RUG BY MARKHAM ROBERTS.

walls, puzzled together in ways that recall homespun farmhouses and dependencies, struck the owner and Roberts as eminently desirable as the new house got under way. Ditto Gatewood's chalky painted finishes (decorative artists Bob Christian and Harry Lendrum channeled them for the Nantucket project), which look "as if they had been there forever," she recalls.

"I wanted old, I wanted detail, I wanted this place to feel like my grandmother's house, which had beadboard everywhere," she continues. "Well, had I known what it was going to cost"—cue a barely imperceptible arch of one eyebrow—"I might not have done it."

To fill the new yet old-fashioned envelope, she delivered decades of belongings into her decorator's eager hands. From a romantic Chinese Export painting of sailing ships that references Massachusetts's seafaring history ("I took it from my son because he didn't like the frame—oh, deliver me, deliver me") to round trivets ("I have a million of them"), her lifetime of oddments now commingle with fetching auction finds as well as captivating punctuations, among them the entrance hall's Julia Condon mandala paintings, which she snapped up from the astute art-and-antiques dealer James Sansum, Roberts's companion and office mate.

"Better than owning a fashion-victim purse—who buys all that whoop-de-do?" the client tartly states, observing that her own handbags tend to be serviceable "because I'm boring."

Spread across the sitting-room floor is a leafy blue-and-green carpet that the late, great British tastemaker John Fowler conjured up in the 1960s for Bunny Mellon's Manhattan dining room. In a guest bath, plants are tucked into a rafraîchissoir, one of those French tables that have integral metal buckets for keeping bottles of wine cool. Painted-wood shorebirds by Nantucket legend Pat Gardner preen on plainspoken brackets that have been grouped, here and there, to form flocks.

Roberts did more than just arrange and augment, of course. An old-school decorator at heart, despite his youthful demeanor, he trimmed, mixed, matched, commissioned, and, frankly, enjoyed himself. He designed dining chairs, colorful quilts, even mitered cushions in the living room. Striped red-and-white fabric was cut up and reassembled into soft paneling for the dining room, where Christian painted giant daisylike quatrefoils on the floor, a kicky combo that everyone agrees is a terrific success. "Not every client's going to indulge your creativity," Roberts admits. To which this particular patron instantly responds, "Honey, that's why everything's so vanilla." ▲



design notes

THE DETAILS THAT MAKE THE LOOK

IN A GUEST ROOM, THE CANOPY'S RED CURTAIN FABRICS ARE BY HOOGSOLL MCKENZIE AND PIERRE PIREY.



COLONIAL CONSOLE TABLE BY NOIR; \$1,843. PERIGOLD.COM

CHINESE PAPER II LINEN; TO THE TRADE. BENNISON FABRICS.COM



MR. ALEXANDRA LAMP BY MARIHAM ROBERTS FOR CHRISTOPHER SPITZMILLER; \$3,370. CHRISTOPHER SPITZMILLER.COM

GEO FLOWER TILE; PRICE UPON REQUEST. MMYTHSTUDIO.CO



COHEN MIRROR BY MADE GOODS; \$1,750. MECOC.COM



INTERIORS: MELISSA HANCOCK. RENOVATION: ART: BECK. MINI: NICO. ALL OTHERS: COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES

CIRCLE STAR VINTAGE PIECED QUILT; PRICE UPON REQUEST. CALVINKLEIN.US



LETTUCEWARE TURKIN; \$350. TORRYBURCH.COM



STAR LANTERN; TO THE TRADE. VAUGHAN DESIGNS.COM

KALEIDOSCOPE FABRIC; BY ONE KINGS LANE FOR THE SHADE STORE; PRICE UPON REQUEST. THESHADESTORE.COM



19TH-CENTURY ARTICLES DECORATE A SUNNY HALLWAY.

SHORE BENCH BY SERENA & LILY; \$798. SERENAHANDLILY.COM



BLUE-AND-WHITE GINGER JAR; \$250. WSHYONE.COM



A BEDROOM'S WALLS ARE CLAD IN FLORAL LINEN BY LEE JOFA.



HOLLYHOCK HAND-BLOCKED COTTON; TO THE TRADE. LEEJOFA.COM



"I wanted it to feel eclectic and bohemian," the owner explains. "Not fussy but relaxed."

WHEAT AND MORNING GLORES WITH GRASSHOPPER BY CARMEN ALMON, 2018; PRICE UPON REQUEST. CARMENALMON.COM