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COURTENEY COX'S PRIVATE PARADISE
EASY ALL-AMERICAN STYLE

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The library of a Nantucket home designed by Ascher Davis Architects. **ON THE COVER:** Courteney Cox at her retreat in Malibu, California. "Scene Change," page 98. Photography by Simon Upton; produced by Anita Sarsidi.

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ROGER DAVIES

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The terrace of Courteney Cox's Malibu house. The family room of a Manhattan apartment designed by Steven Gambrel. A daybed designed by Robert Bristow for Ralph Pucci. A tree house at Keith McNally's home on Martha's Vineyard. A cachepot by Jaye's.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SIMON UPTON; ERIC PIASECKI; JOSHUA McHUGH; SIMON UPTON; GEOFFREY SOKOL

island update

FOR FAMILY FRIENDS, A YOUNG ARCHITECT REINVENTS A CLASSIC NANTUCKET SHINGLED HOUSE AS A SERENE AND SURPRISINGLY CONTEMPORARY RETREAT

TEXT BY FRED BERNSTEIN · PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER DAVIES
STYLED BY GENA SIGALA

When Rebecca Ascher, a young Manhattan architect, was a student at Dartmouth College in the late 1980s and early '90s, she spent many happy summer weekends on Nantucket, the island just south of Cape Cod. A classmate's parents rented a rambling old house on Surfside Beach, a 10-minute drive from busy Nantucket Harbor, and they encouraged her to visit. Ascher retains strong memories of the sprawling, 8,000-square-foot dwelling, with its weathered cedar shingles and dune-front location. "The images of lobster and Champagne on the deck, followed by long walks on the beach, are still vivid," says Ascher, now a partner with Joshua Davis of Manhattan's Ascher Davis Architects. "We all ended up getting married, and then over the years we brought our husbands and our children to the house. It was a place for family and friends."

The house, nicknamed Sandhill, had been built in the 1860s. For decades it was the summer home of Mary Mannering, a London-born stage actress whose career on Broadway blossomed around the turn of the century. Late in life Mannering abandoned the home, and it fell into a state of neglect; in the second half of the 20th century it was purchased and restored by the CEO of Northeast Airlines.

LEFT: In the library of a Nantucket house designed by Rebecca Ascher with Joshua Davis, ottomans by Antonio Citterio and a linen-upholstered armchair by Christian Liaigre surround a cocktail table by Piero Lissoni; the walls, brick fireplace, and custom-made bookshelves are coated in Country Stove White by Ralph Lauren Paint, the floor lamp is by Santa & Cole, the steel chair is by Philippe Starck, and the desk lamp is from Design Within Reach. **ABOVE:** The path from the house that leads to Surfside Beach. See Resources.

The parents of Ascher's classmate had been renting the house for almost 20 years and had tried to buy it a number of times. "They looked all over Nantucket," says Ascher, "but they could never get away from this particular beach, this surfside. It's considered the nicest beach on Nantucket, with beautiful dunes that lead you from the house to the shore." The parents were close to purchasing a property on another part of the island when Sandhill came up for sale about five years ago. Their long history as tenants meant that they had two decades' worth of renovation ideas. Naturally, they called Ascher, who already knew the house inside and out.

In fact, the outside of the house was off limits: Nantucket has some of the strictest historic preservation laws in the country—part of the reason for its famously picturesque architecture—and the owners were told they couldn't alter the exterior in any way. (Nevertheless, they were able to relocate the house 600 feet from its original site.)

Gone were the possibilities not only of adding rooms, but also of doing simple things like raising ceilings and enlarging windows. Luckily, low windowsills mean the house is filled with light and air, more so than if it had followed current building codes. And there was lots of space, which could be repurposed.

The clients felt that the original interior of the house was "ramshackle" and wanted to convert the old-fashioned layout into one that was light

FROM TOP: The entrance to Sandhill. The kitchen's pendant lights are from Resolute, the Corian-top island and ash-veneer cabinets are custom made, and the stools are by Samare; the vent hood is by Abbaka, the range and oven are by Wolf, the sink fittings are by Dornbracht, and the refrigerator is by Sub-Zero. **FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** The family room sectional from Scandinavian Design is upholstered in a Bergamo linen; the slipper chair and ottoman are by Christian Liaigre, and the floor lamp is by Marc Sadler for Foscarini. The table in the breakfast area is by Catherine Memmi, the Saarinen chairs are by Knoll, and the custom-made banquette's cushion is covered in a leather by Holly Hunt. A walkway through the dunes to the ocean. See Resources.

and contemporary—but not boxy or stark—with streamlined versions of traditional New England detailing. "They wanted the inside to be appropriate for a modern family," says Ascher. "And since they knew it would only be used in the summer, they completely changed the interior to suit that function."

The owners had hired established design firms for other projects in the past, but asked Ascher to decorate the interior and to make Sandhill "young and fresh and fun." The furniture and decor are crisp and white, with pops of red, blue, and orange. The style is "Nantucket meets Miami," says Ascher. "It has a relaxed elegance to it. You can come off the beach and sit down and not worry about the sand on your feet. The floor has a slightly beaten look, to go with the sand-duney nature of the site." At the same time, Eero Saarinen Tulip chairs around a dining table, a Piero Lissoni cocktail table in the living room, and a high-arching Foscarini floor lamp in the family room add cosmopolitan flair. The clients love books and words, and handwritten script is a recurring motif: on throw pillows, on the fabric of the office chairs, on the dining room's pendant light fixtures.

The grounds surrounding the house were designed by Piet Oudolf, perhaps best known for planting the High Line park in New York City. "The owners love gardens and wanted a very romantic, very feminine landscape," says Ascher. "It's not a formal garden, but it's meticulously planned, and it has a natural, whimsical feel, with lots of different textures that mirror the rugged Nantucket landscape." Working with his High Line collaborators, the landscape firm James Corner Field Operations, Oudolf laid out meandering paths that cross meadows of tall grasses and hardy perennials.

The interiors of Sandhill mirror the natural world outside. Painted wood paneling and oak and ash millwork evoke the island's wild spaces; glass tiles and polished stones in the bathrooms echo the pebble-lined shore. To Ascher, the process of modernizing the house recalls the way the ocean acts on driftwood: smoothing out its rough edges and softening its color, while preserving its underlying geometry. "Sandhill is streamlined, but it still has a lot of character to it," she says. ■

The master bath's vanity, mirror, and wall shelf are custom made, and the bathtub of volcanic limestone and resin is by Victoria + Albert; the bath and sink fittings are by Dornbracht and Lefroy Brooks, respectively, and the glass tiles are by Ann Sacks. **FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** In the master bedroom, a pair of Carlo Colombo lamps flanks a custom-made bed upholstered in a Bergamo linen; the bench is by Christian Liaigre, the armchair is by Antonio Citterio, and the walnut chairs are by Flexform. The beds in the children's room are by Flou, and the Dakota Jackson lounge chair and ottoman are upholstered in a Holland & Sherry linen. A Christian Liaigre lamp and armchairs by John Saladino in the office area. See Resources.

Visual Comfort & Co., available at *Circa Lighting*, with **custom-painted shades,** to the trade from *Etched Design* (347-603-3196). **Horn brass sconces,** in polished nickel, #CHD1161PN, by *Sandy Chapman* for *Visual Comfort & Co.*, available at *Circa Lighting*.

PAGE 113: **Antique Louis XVI–style bergère** by *Jansen* from *S&S Auction*. **Vintage smoked-mirror bedside table** by *James Mont* from *John Salibello Antiques* (212-838-5767; johnsalibelloantiques.com). **Custom-made shagreen headboard,** to the trade from *Etched Design*. **Raso Stripes cotton coverlet,** in lunar gray, #OQ1, by *Pratesi* (212-288-2315; pratesi.com). ***Variation on Ravel's*** **Valley of the Bells** by *Betsy Eby* from *Winston Wächter Fine Art* (212-255-2718; winstonwachter.com). **Custom-made acrylic wall brackets** by *Plexi-Craft* (212-924-3244; plexi-craft.com). **Porcelain flowers** by *Vladimir Collection* (201-592-1176; vladimircollection.com). Curtains of **Earlham silk,** in custom blue, #C-040, by *de Gournay*.

SWEPT AWAY

PAGE 115: **Lotus brass sink fittings,** in 24K gold, #12200, $4,091/set, by *P. E. Guerin* (212-243-5270; peguerin.com).

PAGE 116: **XL Pearl handle,** $3,700/pr.; and **Mini Ducale spout,** $2,430; both of brass, in polished nickel, by *Compas Studio* (310-854-3023; compasstone.com). **Henry one-hole brass faucet,** in nickel, $1,300, by *Waterworks* (800-899-6757; waterworks.com). **For Town brass bath spout** and **cross handle,** in chrome, $2,454/set, by *Michael S. Smith* for *Kallista* (888-452-5547; kallista.com).

PAGE 117: **Lloyd brass overhead rain showerhead,** in polished chrome, #TS930A1L, $1,201, by *Toto* (888-295-8134; totousa.com).

PAGE 118: **Dolphin bronze sink fittings,** in antique gold, #0907BSN, $3,348, by *Sherle Wagner International* (212-758-3300; sherlewagner.com).

PAGE 119: **Egg & Dart Magnum bronze rain dome,** in gold plate, #O835MAG, $9,762, by *Sherle Wagner International*.

ISLAND UPDATE

PAGES 120–25: **Interior design** and **architecture** by *Rebecca Ascher* and *Joshua Davis* of *Ascher Davis Architects* (212-967-9299; ad-arch.com). **Contracting** by *Ted Goodnow* of *Woodmeister Master Builders* (800-221-0075; woodmeister.com). **Landscape design** by *James Corner Field Operations* (212-433-1450; fieldoperations-.net) and *Piet Oudolf* (e-mail info@oudolf.com).

PAGES 120–21: **Ottomans,** #P60, by *Antonio Citterio* for *B&B Italia* (800-872-1697; bebitalia.com). Armchair upholstered in **Summercloth linen-cotton,** in soda, #1058-01, by *Great Plains,* to the trade from *Holly Hunt* (800-320-3145; hollyhunt.com). **Mex glass cocktail table,** in white, #269, by *Piero Lissoni* for *Cassina* (800-770-3568; cassinausa.com). Walls painted in **Country Stove White,** #WW02, by *Ralph Lauren Paint* (800-379-7656; ralphlaurenpaint.com). **Trípode G5 metal floor lamp** by *Santa & Cole* (860-354-8765; santacole.com).

PAGE 122: In family room, **Krypton sectional** by *Jens Juul Eilersen* for *Scandinavian Design Inc.* (212-213-0009; scandinaviandesigninc.com), upholstered in **Faro linen,** in beige, #2018, by *Sahco* for *Bergamo,* to the trade from *Donghia* (bergamofabrics.com). **Twiggy Terra floor lamp,** in white, by *Marc Sadler* for *Foscarini* from *DDC* (212-685-0800; ddcnyc.com). In breakfast area, **Les Géométriques oak table,** in white, by *Catherine Memmi* (011-33-1-4407-0202; catherinememmi.com). **Tulip fiberglass chairs,** in white, by *Eero Saarinen* for *Knoll* (knoll.com). Banquette upholstered in **Engrained leather,** to the trade from *Holly Hunt*.

PAGE 123: In kitchen, **Mountie steel-and-rawhide stools,** in white, by *Samare,* available at *Matter* (212-343-2600; mattermatters.com). **Custom-made Monolith vent hood** by *Abbaka* (800-548-3932; abbaka.com). **48" gas range,** #R486G; and **convection microwave oven,** #MWC24; both by *Wolf* (800-332-9513; wolfappliance.com). **Elio single-lever brass sink fittings,** in polished chrome, by *Sieger* for *Dornbracht* (800-774-1181; dornbracht-.com). **48" Built-In refrigerator/freezer,** #BI-48S, by *Sub-Zero* (800-222-7820; subzero.com).

PAGE 124: In master bedroom, custom-made bed upholstered in **Oseille Sauvage linen,** in neige, #17075, by *Dominique Kieffer* for *Bergamo,* to the trade from *Donghia.* **Kalos armchair** by *Antonio Citterio* for *Maxalto* (800-872-1697; maxalto.it). **Thomas walnut-and-leather chairs** by *Flexform* (312-265-1181; flexform-.it). In children's room, **Plaza beds** by *Rodolfo Dordoni* for *Flou* (212-941-9101; flou.com). **Bump lounge chair** and **ottoman,** to the trade from *Dakota Jackson Inc.* (212-838-9444; dakotajackson.com), upholstered in **Hopsack linen,** in denim blue, #SQ11155, to the trade from *Holland & Sherry* (212-355-6241; hollandandsherry-.com). In office area, **Atlantis glass table** by *Lorenzo Arosio* from *Spazio Pontaccio* (011-39-02-805-7025; spaziopontaccio.it). **Cassandra armchairs,** to the trade from *Saladino Furniture Inc.* (212-684-3720; saladinostyle.com), upholstered in **Signature Script silk taffeta,** in gold on apricot, #QC5, by *Carolyn Quartermaine,* to the trade from *Christopher Hyland* (212-688-6121; christopherhyland.com).

PAGE 125: **Richmond Englishcast tub,** in white, #RIC-N-SW, by *Victoria + Albert* (800-421-7189; vandabaths-.com). **Lulu floor-mounted brass tub filler,** in polished chrome, by *Sieger* for *Dornbracht.* **Mackintosh brass sink fittings,** in satin nickel, by *Lefroy Brooks* (212-226-2242; lefroybrooks.com). Walls and floor paved in **Crystal glass tiles,** in sky, #AS10373, by *Ann Sacks* (800-278-8453; annsacks.com).

ROOM TO GROW

PAGES 126–33: **Interior design** by *Steven Gambrel* of *S. R. Gambrel* (212-925-3380; srgambrel.com). **Architecture** by *Henry Jessup* of *HS Jessup Architecture* (212-514-8545; hsjessup.com).

PAGES 126–27: **Dining chairs** by *Steven Gambrel,* produced by *Dune* (212-925-6171; dune-ny.com). Vintage French oak chair with cushions of **Tango cotton-silk,** in ecru chocolate, #08-149A, to the trade from *Chapas Textiles* (chapastextiles.com). **Epines bronze-and-lacquer tripod side table,** #HVDS-2, by *Hervé Van der Straeten* from *Maison Gerard Ltd.* (212-674-7611; maisongerard-.com). **Convex copper globe lanterns,** #LTN07, by *Jamb Ltd.* (011-44-20-7730-2122; jamblimited.com). ***Eclipse 2009*** by *Mark Francis* from *Kerlin Gallery* (011-353-1670-9093; kerlin.ie). Curtains of **Ettori silk-wool,** in azure, #7308-03, to the trade from *Romo* (romo.com). Walls covered in **Barkskin wall covering,** in gray, to the trade from *Caba Company* (505-983-1942; barkskin.com). ***Silver Water, 2009*** by *Nancy Lorenz* from *Graham Gallery* (212-535-5767; jamesgrahamandsons.com).

PAGE 128: ***Blue Evaporation, 2008*** by *Nancy Lorenz* from *Graham Gallery.* Sofa upholstered in **Hmong Plush viscose,** in quarry, #5051-06, to the trade from *Pollack* (212-627-7766; pollackassociates.com). Armchairs upholstered in **Rubina cotton velvet,** in 04, #2043, by *Sahco* for *Bergamo,* to the trade from *Donghia* (donghia-.com). **Vintage Murano-glass table lamp** by *Seguso* from *Retro Modern* (212-674-0530; retromodernlighting.com). **Scratchout silk-wool carpet** by *Carini Lang* (646-613-0497; carinilang.com).

PAGE 129: **Large Square Drum Shade brass light fixture,** in nickel and blue eggshell, by *Charles Edwards* (011-44-20-7736-8490; charlesedwards.com). **Vintage gold-leaf-and-mahogany mirror** from *Mondo Cane* (212-219-9244; mondocane.com). Armchair upholstered in **Cavallini cowhide,** in pearl gray, #C18, to the trade from *Edelman Leather* (860-350-9600; edelmanleather.com).

PAGE 130: **Walnut-and-bronze wishbone table** by *BDDW* (212-625-1230; bddw.com). Doors painted in **Hollandlac Brilliant enamel,** in black, #0029B, by *Fine Paints of Europe* (800-332-1556; finepaintsofeurope.com).

PAGE 131: In kitchen, **Modern Architectural sink fittings,** in satin nickel, #LS57L, by *Rohl* (800-777-9762; rohlhome.com). **30" L-Series Framed double oven,** #DO30F-S, by *Wolf* (wolfappliance.com). In bar area, **vintage brass-and-glass light fixture** by *Arredoluce* from *Fred Silberman* (212-924-6330; fredsilberman.com).

PAGE 132: In playroom, **Six-Light Square Tube brass light fixture,** in bronze, by *Sandy Chapman* for *Visual Comfort & Co.* from *Circa Lighting* (877-762-2323; circalighting.com). **Homespun wool rug,** in black multi, #40, to the trade from *Beauvais Carpets* (212-688-2265; beauvaiscarpets.com). In children's bedroom, Roman shade of **Cintra linen-cotton,** #AC704-01, to the trade from *Quadrille* (212-753-2995; quadrillefabrics.com). **Arianna Stripe wool rug,** in fresh blue, #10167, to the trade from *Patterson, Flynn & Martin* (212-688-7700; pattersonflynnmartin.com). In master bath, **Harrison Lever nickel sink fittings,** #0980BSN-PN, by *Sherle Wagner International* (212-758-3300; sherlewagner.com). **Vintage nickel-and-coconut-shell mirror** from *Retro Modern*.

PAGE 133: **3-Band Applique cotton bed linens** by *E. Braun & Co.* (800-372-7286; ebraunandco.com). Walls covered in **Tussah silk,** in celadon, #SLK-25, by *Kneedler-Fauchere Imports,* to the trade from *Hines & Co.* (212-754-5880).

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

PAGES 135–38: **Interior design** by *Ted Tuttle* of *Ted Tuttle Interior Design LLC* (206-329-2373; tedtuttleinteriordesign.com).

ETCETERA

PAGE 144: **Stainless-steel ice bucket,** #5051, $160, by *Ettore Sottsass* for *Alessi* (212-941-7300; alessi-shop.com). **Rattan bucket,** #3306430, $38, by *Pierre Deux* (888-743-7732; pierredeux.com). **Montgomery silver-plate wine cooler,** $395, by *Ralph Lauren Home* (888-475-7674; ralphlaurenhome.com). **Nautical Rope vinyl-and-plastic bucket,** in blue, #455-1, $50, by *Mr. Ice Bucket* (732-545-0420; mricebucket.com). **Hammer Tone brass Champagne bucket,** $210, by *Surevolution* (212-255-6928; surevolution.com). **Crystal ice bucket,** $150, by *Tiffany & Co.* (800-526-0649; tiffany.com). **Customized acrylic bucket,** in turtle cay, $78, by *Iomoi* (925-282-1098; shopiomoi.com). **Wood Grain metal ice bucket,** #147401, $225, by *Michael Aram* for *Waterford* (877-900-9973; waterford.com). **Parisian resin ice bucket,** in horn, #TT-3055, $498, from *Authentic Provence Inc.* (561-805-9995; authenticprovence.com). **Java earthenware bucket,** #J3446, $120, by *Home, James!* (631-324-2307; homejameseasthampton.com). **Pampa wood-and-bone ice bucket,** in ivory and black, #101, $1,400, by *Edwina Hunt* (212-308-1914; edwinahunt.com). **Mastaba PVC-and-metal bucket** and **tongs,** $150, by *Kim Seybert* (212-564-7850; kimseybert.com). **Altamura metal-and-leather ice bucket,** $48, by *Casamidy* (011-52-415-152-0403; casamidy.com). **Leather ice bucket,** #PN924N, $595, by *Sol & Luna* from *Bergdorf Goodman* (212-872-8872). **Corelli crystal bucket,** $280, by *Armani/Casa* (212-334-1271; armanicasa.com). **Mirrored glass ice bucket,** $200, by *Michael Anastassiades* for *Calvin Klein Home* (212-292-9000; calvinklein.com).

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