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Re-creating the Cape Cod



Behind a traditional exterior—a pitched roof, clapboard siding, a covered porch—lies a pleasant surprise: smart, state-of-the-art space planning

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAN HERRING. STYLING: JINAKI LARSEN, MARGARET MUNCHOLAS. FOR DETAILS, SEE PRODUCT INFORMATION.



Because most guests enter from the driveway at the back of this 5,000-sq.-ft. house, above, the rear facade was designed to be attractive and welcoming. A flagstone walkway and broad steps lead to a covered porch, right, a welcome feature in rainy Vancouver, B.C. Colorful plantings create an inviting first impression.

Architectural details, such as wainscoting and an Arts and Crafts–style frieze, unify the first-floor rooms



Cape Cod

TRADITIONAL house designs inspired by our architectural heritage, whether Georgian or Colonial, Queen Anne or Shingle Style, have a reassuring familiarity and detailed craftsmanship that many new home builders seek to marry with the modern conveniences and light-filled, open layouts of today. To illustrate how it can be done, we present three examples in which the blend of past and present is balanced to perfection. In the 5,000-sq.-ft. Vancouver house shown here, architect John Hollifield drew on Cape Cod styling to bring a comfortably human scale to a generously sized residence for a young family of five. Instead of traditional room divisions—living room, family room, or den—however, the owners wanted to create one large, family-oriented living area. “The Great Room sets the scene for the informal style of the house,” says Hollifield. Along with the large kitchen and window-lined breakfast area, it opens onto a covered deck in the back, so living can easily shift outside in summer. Painted wainscoting throughout the first floor was another request to help keep the rooms easy-to-clean and child-friendly. The house is organized around a central staircase, which can be viewed from almost every room, making the large spaces feel more accessible.

A massive fireplace made of Tyndall limestone from the Saskatchewan prairie suits the generous scale of the Great Room, left. The central staircase is visible from the dining area of the Great Room, top right. Period detailing in the kitchen includes bin storage and a farm-table island, middle right. The kitchen opens onto a covered porch and the breakfast alcove, bottom right.



Cape Cod



AS BEFITS THE HUMBLE ORIGINS of classic Cape Cod style, detailing in the interior was kept fairly simple—picture railings rather than elaborate crown moldings at ceiling junctions and straightforward window frames. The architects did draw on Arts and Crafts-style accents, however, to add drama in certain locations. An art-glass window in the master bedroom, for example, echoes geometric Craftsman motifs. Because the fireplace is a direct-vent gas model, the window could be placed above the mantel, where a chimney normally would be. The fireplace is flanked by doors that open onto a charming private balcony. Throughout the house, ample windows and glass-paned doors, along with a large skylight above the central stairwell, fill the space with the contemporary appeal of natural light, essential in Vancouver's gray climate. The windows and doors all feature true divided lights, replicating an old-fashioned standard of quality. Wooden floors also bring the warmth of the past into the present. Modern-day amenities are plentiful, too, however: The second floor features three baths for the four bedrooms, and the master bath includes a separate shower and whirlpool tub as well as generous closets—proving that old-fashioned quality and charm can still coexist happily with comfort and convenience.



In contrast to houses of the past, here light floods the master bedroom and up-to-the-minute amenities fill the bath



DRAWINGS BY NATALE SIEGEL



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

In the master bedroom, above left, doors open onto a balcony that is visible from the side elevation, opposite. An art-glass window, top, installed above the fireplace, lends a decorative touch. After encircling the jetted tub in the master bath, above, a platform extends into the clean-lined, frameless glazed shower to form a seat. Both first and second floors are organized around the central staircase (see plans).