



PEDAL PUSHERS

After discovering Nantucket Island's bike paths, a Boston couple geared up to build this cozy cottage.

Sitting on the deck of their Nantucket Island cottage, Bob Vogel and Barbara Pfister bask in their good fortune as waves of salty sea air wash over them.

Since first visiting Nantucket in 1984, they have been smitten with the island. The prosperous home port of America's whaling industry in the 1840s, it is now an outpost of New England quaintness 30 miles out to sea off Cape Cod.

"Nantucket is such an extraordinary place," says Bob. "From the first time we came here to ride around on bikes, I have been impressed by the island, its beaches, and moors. It's not the kind of place where you have to rush around doing things. We come to relax."

Now, after six years of planning and labor, they have constructed a personal retreat for weekends and vacations. Their primary residence remains in Brookline, Massachusetts, near Bob's work as a computer systems auditor and Barbara's duties as a business manager.

By STEVE COOPER
Produced with SUE MATTEO



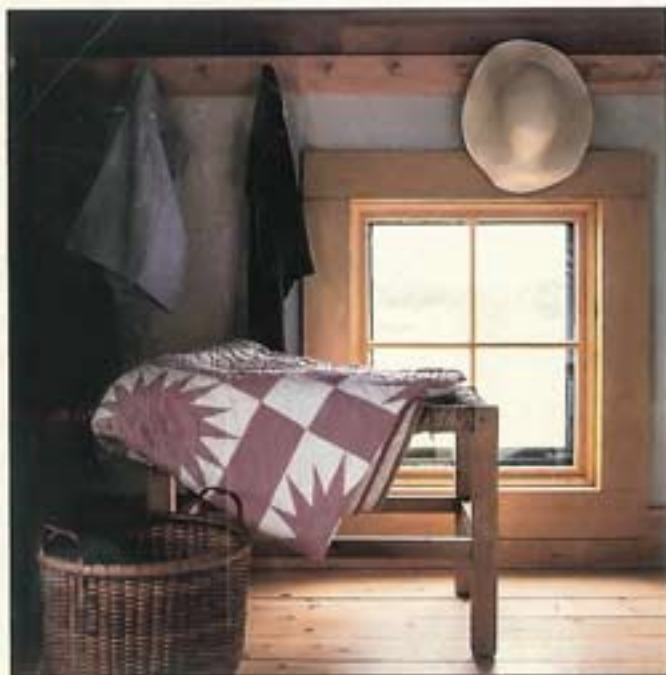
Left: The sparse surroundings of the cottage recall a description of Nantucket Island found in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*: "Nantucket! Take out your map and look at it... a mere hillock, and elbow of sand; all beach, without a background." Top: Bob Vogel and Barbara Pfister favor bicycles for island transportation. Above: A model ship Bob built recalls the island's once-mighty whaling fleet.

WEEKEND COMES



Above: Delft blue kitchen window tiles from Holland add a touch of elegance. Right: To stay within budget, Bob chose pine for floors, fir for stair railing, and poplar for the kitchen counter.

Below: Hang your hat along this bedroom wall where steep roof pitch causes the ceiling to sweep low. Fortunately, there's plenty of headroom around the bed.



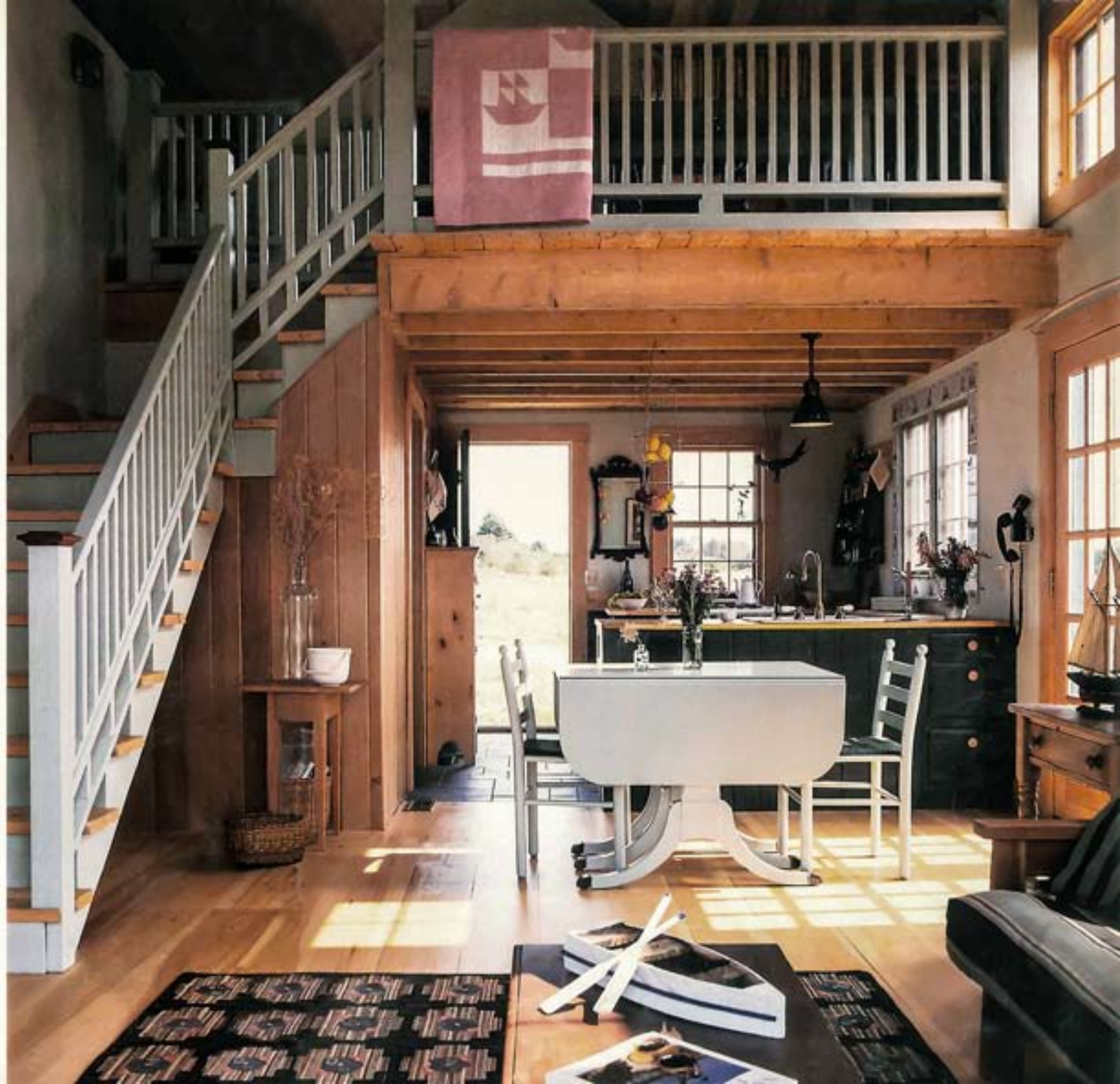
Bench above: Crisp and Stern

saw it. Then I discovered the beaches and I never wanted to leave. We're very fortunate to have a home here."

To keep island life as simple as possible, the cottage has a no-frills layout. The main floor is a single open room—from French doors at the front to a rear door—accommodating the living room, dining area, and kitchen. A modest-size bathroom is tucked behind the staircase on the same level. Above the kitchen is a loft bedroom.

Building on the island can be expensive, but Bob and Barbara saved strain on their budget by purchasing the home's shell from a mainland company. Walls and roof parts were readied in a Newton, Massachusetts, shop, ferried to the island, and assembled in a week on a 16×28-foot foundation. With the help of a friend, Bob finished the project, which included such tasks as laying floors and painting.

"I couldn't be happier with the results," Bob says. "For just the two of us, it's perfect. Sweep it out and it's clean. And we're a short bike ride from the water. What better place to be?" □



WEEKEND COMES

"But, of course," Bob says, "we're out here on the island every weekend in summer, during vacations, and over the holidays. Every chance we can get."

Their 650-square-foot, Cape Cod-style cottage has a beauty rooted in rugged simplicity, much like the island on which it nests. The shingle-sided home offers the couple a friendly haven in much the same way as the island's protective Great Harbor has embraced sailors from the time of the whalers to this day of the pleasure craft.

Off-islanders, like Bob and Barbara, are drawn by Nantucket's stark beauty. Approaching the island by sea, visitors are struck by how low in the water the 13-mile-wide oasis seems to sit. Scraped clean when long-ago glaciers receded, the landscape is as flat as a Midwestern farm field. For bicyclists, it's a smooth and easy ride to any of the windswept, sandy beaches.

Equally appealing is the harbor town and its captivating collection of more than 800 structures predating the Civil War. The town beckons strollers with its multitude of shops, museums, and history.

Barbara says, "I fell in love with the island from the first moment I



Above: A weekend house needs easy-care seating like these painted Windsor chairs. The model bike is a miniature of Bob's own full-size reproduction of his 1852 Columbia pedal cruiser. Below: Though he had little carpentry experience, Bob built the stair banister.



Above and left: Single-drawer table and Baker stand, Cras and Bares.

Because this is a vacation cottage, it's been decorated for comfort rather than luxury. "We come to the island to relax. Housework is minimized," Barbara says. It's a place where summer's promise is always present in model ships and Bob's treasured photo of soho New York Yankees Maria, Berra, and Mantle.