



Downsizing Done Right

BY LENORE CULLEN BARNES • PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN CUTRONA

A neutral palette with seaside-inspired details create a tranquil space to relax.



A couple works with Irina MacPhee of Pastiche of Cape Cod to create a snug spot with an unexpected punch of style.

After seventeen moves, Ron and Trisha McAlear don't sweat the details when it comes to setting up house. You'd never know it, though, when visiting their new Mashpee home, a two-bedroom condominium where beautifully rendered details punctuate the casually sophisticated décor.

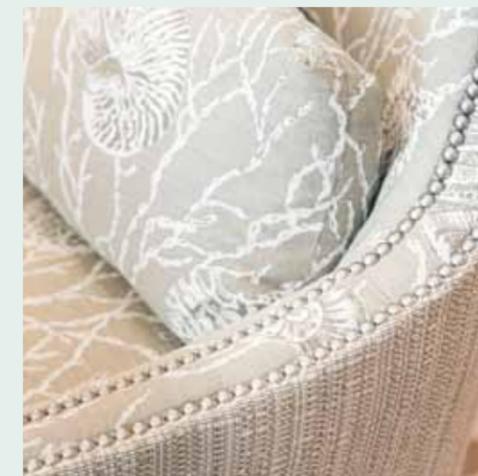
The Mashpee residence is one of three homes the McAlears currently own, including one in New Orleans, where they have lived since 1974, and another on Nantucket.

Interior Design: PASTICHE OF CAPE COD

"Trisha and Ron are at the forefront of a trend in lifestyle choices emerging in our economy," said Irina MacPhee, interior designer and owner of Pastiche of Cape Cod. "They're downsizing but improving quality of life. This way, they can put more investment into the furnishings and accessories of each house."

These homeowners know their stuff

MacPhee described the decorating process as a collaboration between Trisha, Ron and herself. The McAlears had already implemented a number of upgrades in the construction and design of the home and added a large family room/entertaining area on the lower floor. Ron, a naval architect, drew the plans that resulted in French sliders opening into a four-season room instead of the originally intended door and two windows leading to an open deck at the rear of the home.



The couple chose Bruce five-inch plank rustic hickory flooring, extra wide moldings and custom ceiling and wall colors.

"They had already made great choices with the bones of the home, before I came on board," said MacPhee. "Trisha is very talented. Lots of people think they can do this themselves, but then I get the emergency phone calls. Trisha is in the two percent among lay people who can pull this off."

Trisha acknowledges a fair amount of wisdom has been gained from experience.

"We've moved so many times we know what makes sense," she said. "Higher counters in the master bath, for example."

Above: In the four-season room a former liquor cabinet was transformed into a TV cabinet; side tables include four slide-out serving trays. At left: Thoughtful design touches, such as nailheads to finish upholstered pieces, were used throughout the home.



The quiet and refined seaside motif carries into the master bedroom with Nantucket toile fabric from Joan Peter's collection used in the coverlet and panel drapes.



Both decorative and functional, there are dual glass cabinet display cases with a lower compartment to store paper files in the downstairs office, which rests off the adjoining family/entertainment room.

Bring on the style

In addition to high counters, the master bath boasts Ragno Calabria tile throughout, with 12-by 12-inch squares in the shower and 12-by 24-inch rectangles on the floor. The space is crowned by a brushed bronze chandelier.

Trisha discovered MacPhee's talents after admiring a Pastiche advertisement in a magazine.

"I looked at that picture every day for a summer and still loved it, so I knew it was what I wanted," said Trisha.

Ad in hand, she walked into Pastiche and the teamwork began.

MacPhee started in the living room with a couch in the neutral-toned starfish pattern and welting Trisha had admired. She coordinated it with twin club chairs in a raffia and coastal themed fabric finished with pewter nailheads. Coral lamps top-round teak end tables that feature a compass rose in the center. A custom coffee table, bench-made in Eastern white pine, was designed to the perfect proportions for the space.

Two Juliska pendants, also from Pastiche, sparkle above the dining table, complemented by a pair of Juliska lamps on the adjacent mirror-fronted sideboard.

A masterful master

The master bedroom's black and cream palette stems from Joan Peters' Nantucket toile on the coverlet, panel drapes and goblet-pleated balance. A chair upholstered in a charcoal linen blended with silver welting lends a masculine touch. On the dresser, Juliska lamps with black shades continue the palette. Sailing scenes painted by Gretchen Armbruster, a respected artist and friend from Mandeville, Louisiana, hang above the dresser and living room fireplace.

In the sunny neutral-hued four-season room, a former liquor cabinet was refitted to house a television and side tables include four slide-out serving trays.

"I wanted things to be functional," Trish said. "For me, decorating and design are fun because if you make a mistake, it's not life-altering. We learned from (Hurricane) Katrina that things really are just things."

True, but some things are more beautiful than others, as masterfully evidenced by the choices MacPhee and the McAlears made to create this soothing and inviting home. [SOUTHERNNEHOME](http://www.southernnehome.com)

