

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS: THE BOY WHO SAILED SOLO AROUND THE WORLD

COASTAL LIVING

the good life

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**AMERICA'S
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OCTOBER 2009

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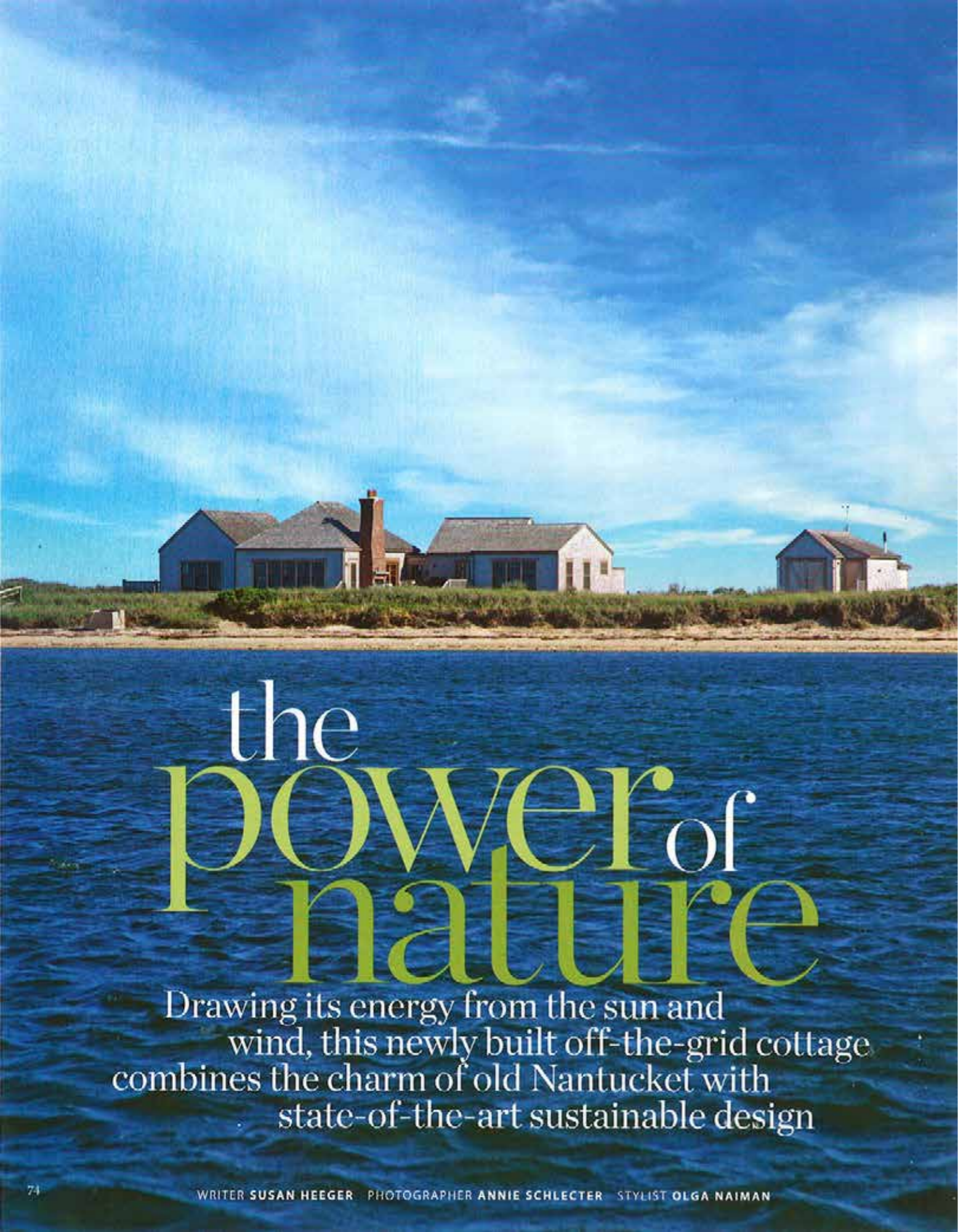
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ideas to steal!

GET THE LOOK FROM OUR LATEST SHOW HOUSE

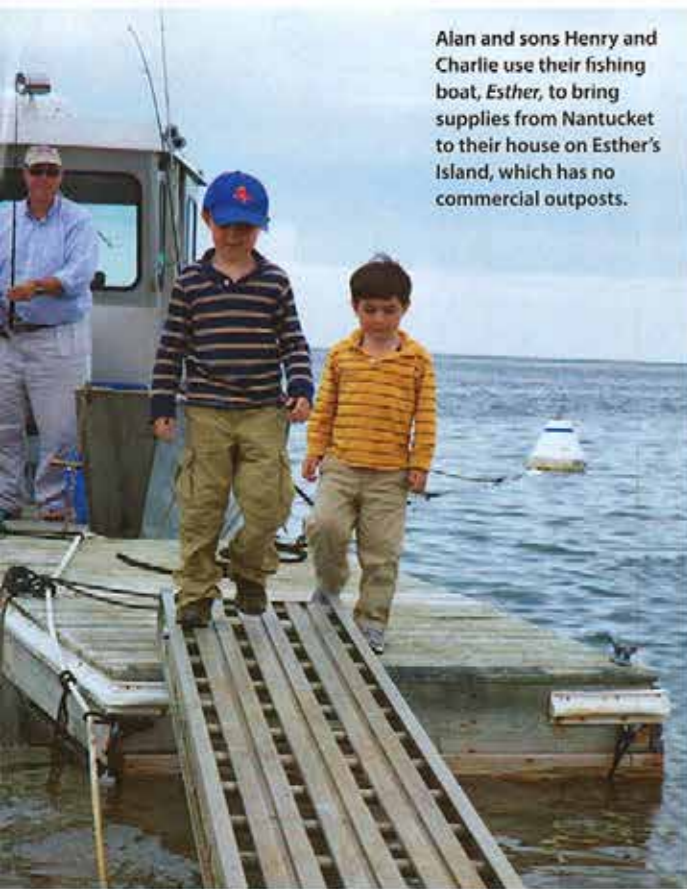


the power of nature

Drawing its energy from the sun and wind, this newly built off-the-grid cottage combines the charm of old Nantucket with state-of-the-art sustainable design



Behind the scenes, nature quietly runs the show, with wind and sun power routed to batteries in a shed disguised as a boathouse (opposite, far right). The porch door opens to a lawn, scrubby dune grasses, and the Atlantic Ocean beyond. ■ SHOP THE LOOK: Wicker chair, Dearing Antiques. Runner, Dash & Albert



Alan and sons Henry and Charlie use their fishing boat, *Esther*, to bring supplies from Nantucket to their house on *Esther's Island*, which has no commercial outposts.

As a boy growing up near Cape Cod, Alan Worden spent freewheeling summers digging clams, roaming beaches, and waging Ping-Pong wars with pals on a table that morphed at dusk into a spot for dinner. Today, on *Esther's Island* off Nantucket, he has recreated this spirit of freedom for his own boys, Henry, 7, and Charlie, 5, right down to the dinner table, custom-designed with Ping-Pong stripes and regulation proportions. Every room of their shingled house overlooks water and sand, and every night, the family falls asleep to lapping waves. Best of all for Alan—CEO of Scout Real Estate Capital, a sustainable resort development and operating company—the house sits lightly on the land, demanding little from its setting. “I love the idea of using Yankee thrift and ingenuity to avoid waste,” he says.

Built in 2007 near the site of a ramshackle cottage one family had owned since the 1950s, his house is totally off the grid: Solar panels and a wind turbine capture the elements to make power; a high-tech system purifies wastewater. The house incorporates bits of the old cottage—cedar shingles, wood studs. But far from screaming “green,” it has an air of slightly worn, unpretentious New

We love...

THE BOW-BEAMED CEILING, designed to look like a whaling boat's hull.

THAT MAHOGANY DINING TABLE—between meals, it converts to a Ping-Pong table!

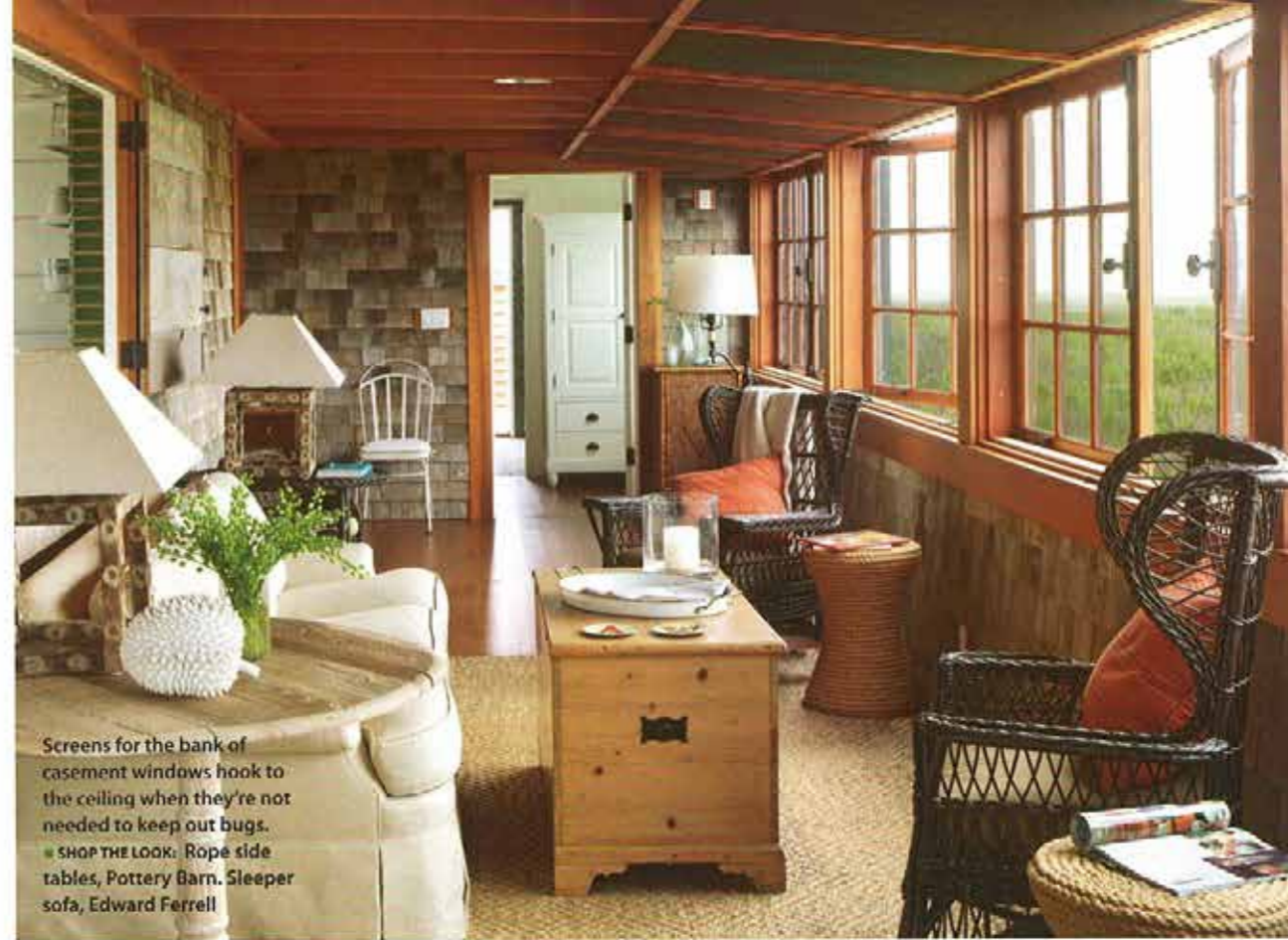
LOCAL CRAFTSMANSHIP. Nantucket resident John Doyle designed and constructed the fireplace with river rocks and beach rocks.

A HINT OF GLINT, like the sparkle of a mercury-glass lamp against all that wood and stone. **SHOP THE LOOK:** Lamp, Jamie Young





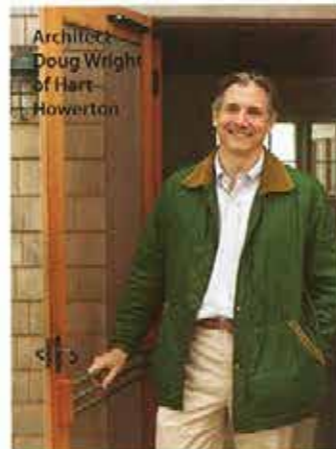
We love...
THAT TO-DIE-FOR GREEN TILE running all the way to the ceiling. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** The subway tile is from Ann Sacks.
OPEN SHELVES; their clean lines, without supporting brackets, seem to float on the tiled wall.
NAUTICAL SCONCES providing task lighting for the sink and counter area. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Click on "wall sconce lighting" at barnlightelectric.com.



Screens for the bank of casement windows hook to the ceiling when they're not needed to keep out bugs. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Rope side tables, Pottery Barn. Sleeper sofa, Edward Ferrell

England ease. Because it doesn't look like it was just built, "you'd never know it was 'green' unless I told you," Alan says.

"Nantucketers don't throw things away," he adds. Alan began summering on that former whaling island in 1988 and moved there full-time in 2002. Four years later, 7 acres on a smaller island nearby came up for sale. "The existing house was four nailed-together shacks," Alan recalls. "One was a Nantucket barber shop that otherwise would have been torn down; another had been a gas station. They were uninsulated, with different rooflines, and in pretty bad shape." Nevertheless, they perched atop a small island between Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic, surrounded by 50 wild acres and only two other summer homes. Water came from a brackish well; a polluting generator powered lights. But the cottage's family-friendly configuration—bedrooms grouped around a central gathering place—charmed Alan.



Architect Doug Wright of Hart-Howerton

Because the house was too frail to keep, he decided to build a new one as modest and detailed as the original but technologically modern. For help with the concept, he consulted designers he was working with on a hotel: architect Doug Wright of the international firm Hart Howerton, and Linda Woodrum of T.S. Hudson Interiors in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Doug sketched a plan for three pavilion-style bedrooms, linked by a deck and covered porch to one large room that serves kitchen, living, and dining functions. Set back 50 feet from the unstable dune line and built



ON THE HOUSE

STYLE quintessential Nantucket cottage clad in unpainted cedar shingles that weather beautifully to gray

SPACE 2,400 square feet, with three bedrooms, one bath, two half baths, and three outdoor showers; additional family room combines living, dining, and kitchen spaces, while the porch adds covered sleeping and lounging areas and the main deck provides outdoor sunning spots

SETTING currently off the western tip of Nantucket, separated by a finger of water that widens in storms and occasionally disappears, reconnecting the two islands

VIEW harbor boats, sea birds, ocean breakers, and undulating dunes topped with wind-blown grasses

THE HOUSE'S POWER TRIP

• The battery shed

Designed to look like an old boathouse, the shed contains the batteries that store power generated by the solar panels and wind turbine. On rare occasions when it's not adequately sunny or windy to charge the storage batteries, a clean-burning propane generator kicks into service.

• Solar panels

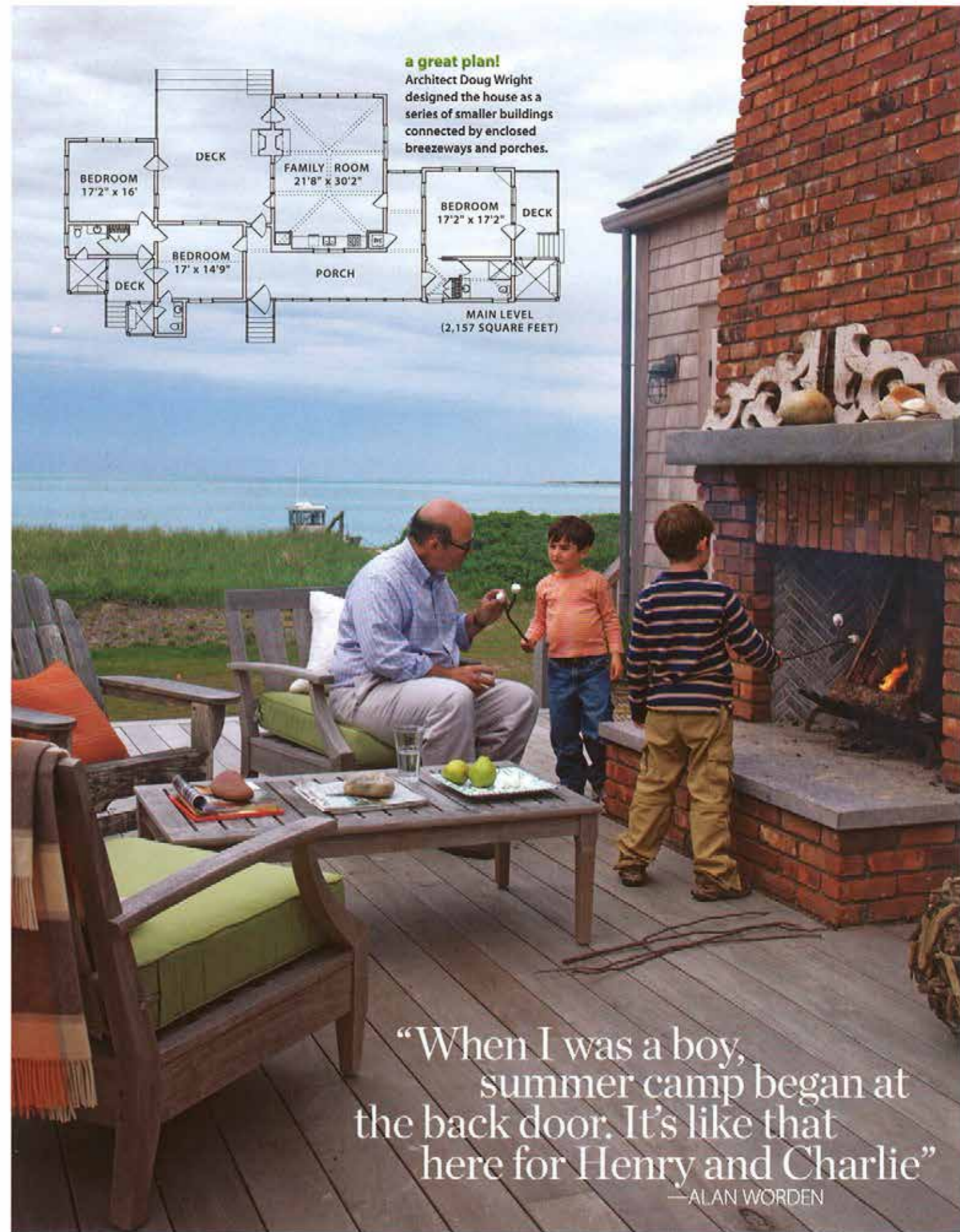
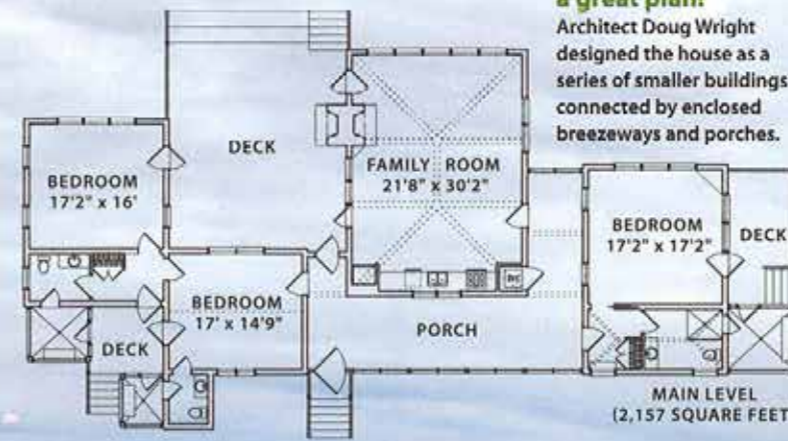
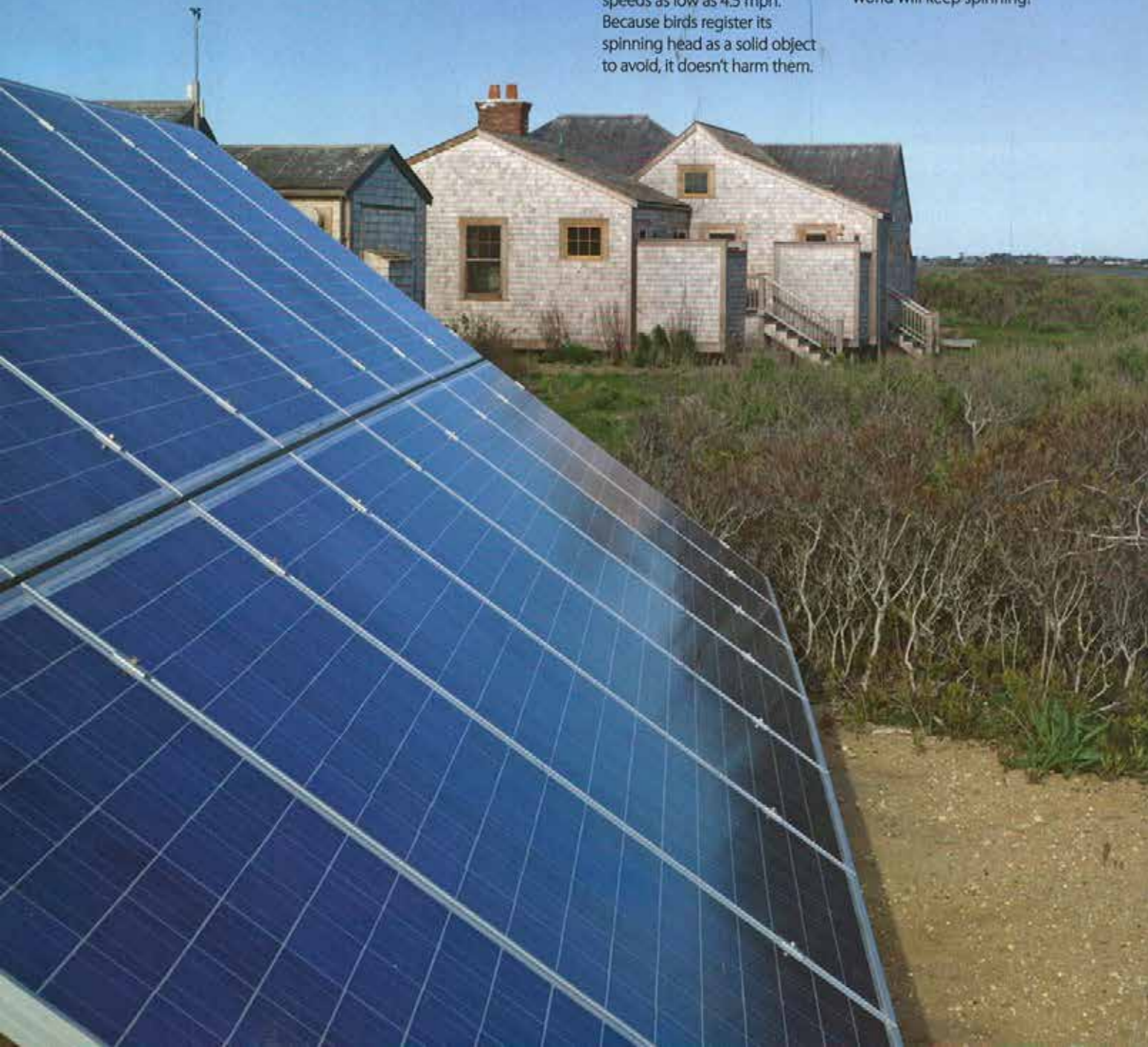
A 5-kilowatt array of 16 solar panels on aluminum frames faces due south to catch the sun, producing electrical current that flows through underground copper wiring to a battery-filled storage shed.

• Wind turbine

At the same time, a 5-kilowatt vertical-axis turbine nearby turns quietly in the wind, producing its own power at speeds as low as 4.5 mph. Because birds register its spinning head as a solid object to avoid, it doesn't harm them.

• Energy-saving choices

Initially, to assess the home's power needs, Alan inventoried commonly used appliances: "Would we use a vacuum or a broom? A French-press coffeemaker or an electric, which is a huge power draw?" He chose the broom and the French-press, and dropped ceiling fans altogether. "We can all manage with less power than we think," he says, "and the world will keep spinning!"



“When I was a boy, summer camp began at the back door. It’s like that here for Henry and Charlie”

—ALAN WORDEN



“I love the idea of using Yankee thrift and ingenuity to avoid waste”
—ALAN WORDEN



on screw piles above storm-surge level, the new house is slightly larger than the first (2,400 vs. 1,600 square feet) and similarly sheathed in natural, no-maintenance cedar. Inside, recycled pine ceilings, farmed-mahogany floors, and beaded-board walls suggest timeless New England life. The bow-beamed family room evokes a boat's hull; the rock chimney salutes the days when ships' ballasts wound up cobbling Nantucket's streets.

Throughout the building, which Doug calls “a supporting frame for the views,” Linda mixed old and new furnishings, avoiding anything precious. “You’re engaged here with what’s outside, the drama of wind and water,” she says. “You sit in a chair and put your feet up. That’s the spirit of this house.” Linda paired upholstered pieces with vintage Americana—painted dressers, turned bedposts, blanket trunks. In the family room, reading chairs by the fireplace and a sofa grouping for parties are all constructed with sustainable wood and organic padding. The boys’ room is the splashiest with a green-painted floor and beds; the master’s scheme captures the blues of sea and sky. Accents come from vintage textures—the weathered shingles from the old house that line the porch, the patina of painted chests. Other details subtly discourage waste; for example, numbered napkins and towels belong to guests for a week, reminding them to reuse.

“When I was a boy,” Alan reflects, “summer camp began at the back door. It’s like that here for Henry and Charlie. They’ll spend a whole day in shorts and Crocs, with fishing poles and nets, finding things to drag home.”

We love...

WAKING UP TO VIEWS from the master bedroom (above). Here, Alan wakes to Madaket Harbor.

THE KICKY GREEN color of the Sherwin-Williams floor paint in the boys’ room (left). The name, Sassy Green (6416), says it all.

DAYBEDS UNDER WINDOWS for cozying up with a book—or mag!—or accommodating extra guests. The nook at right is on the porch, between the master and family room. ■ SHOP THE LOOK: Daybed; selection at ashleytaylorhome.com

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