

PAMET COTTAGE

AN UPDATED TRURO RETREAT

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LIVING ROOM PHOTO BY RICHARD MANDELKORN

ARCHITECTURE BY PAUL KRUEGER OF
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At full tide, the swollen Pamet River makes for a compelling tableau from an Adirondack chair placed deck-side.

From almost any viewpoint, the path of Truro's meandering Pamet River offers a perpetual reminder of nature's elemental rhythms and deeper harmonies. With its ever shifting tides, it presents a dynamic, hypnotizing tableau—the perfect backdrop to a private retreat.

INTIMATE SURROUNDINGS

One of the most desirable locations from which to indulge in these thoughts is the Cipolla-McDonald cottage, recently updated by Cambridge-based architect Paul Krueger. This project fuses the owners' long-standing "love affair" with the Pamet to a commitment to cutting-edge preservation and conservation issues also shared by the architect.





Resplendent in full bloom, the court achieves an unusual balance between a feeling of public openness and an intimate private scale. The scale of the windows, doors, and other architectural elements imparts a sense of charm and intimacy to the space.



The living room's toy-like scale is enhanced by miniature two-over-two sash windows flanking the fireplace, whose outsized mantelpiece further accentuates their size. Comfortable slipcovered sofas face one another over a generous pine coffee table; all float on the glassy pickled pine floors. Artist McDonald's dreamy architectural iconography adds a further dimension of repose.



Virtually a cage of glass, the dining area possesses the most dramatic sense of natural exposure. Krueger's rectilinear scheme, set off in white, offers a stark contrast to the curvaceous Pamet River.

The thoughtful knitting together of past and present, of nature and culture, provided overarching themes. As the Executive Vice President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and publisher of its enormously successful journal, *Preservation Times*, Vin Cipolla's credentials are self-evident. Celine McDonald, Cipolla's wife, is the artist whose hauntingly beautiful canvases adorn each room; her work offers a rich counterpoint to the cool rationalism of the architecture. Having already built in the Truro area, and as confessed "perpetual scouts" for a more advantageous view of the Pamet River, the clients sought and achieved a gracious level of intimacy with their new surroundings.

CONTEMPORARY RETREAT

Architect Paul Krueger faced a challenge. Not only did the design have to please the clients, but it also had to satisfy neighbors' concerns. In order to reinvent the cottage as a contemporary retreat, Krueger had to gut the interior but maintain the 19th century cottage's original studs, rafters, and foundation. In addition, because the existing footprint was, by today's standards, far too close to the waterline, the conservation commission had to be satisfied that the new construction would not harm the environment. But with dozens of Cape-based projects already under his belt, including the Provincetown Town Hall renovation in 1991, Krueger was well prepared to



ABOVE: The kitchen reposes beneath a broad spreading gable. Stacked two-over-two sash windows echo the living room's window scheme with a twist. Simple lines and a generous sense of space make this a pleasant area in which to compose a meal. From the sink, one looks into the dining room, and out onto the Pamet River.

RIGHT: The spaces telescoping beyond the children's quarters contain both a full bath and outdoor shower beyond. The unified visual impact is maintained by employing white fixtures throughout.

TOP RIGHT: In the master bedroom, the scale evident outside continues in the private realm. A low-slung window seat, the bank of cabinets, and the plane of the bed establish the dominant, knee-high horizontals.





find a solution that not only settled these issues, but introduced a note of effortless grace to the final product.

COTTAGE VERNACULAR

Upon turning into the drive, one is greeted with a partially hidden cluster of gables, doors, and windows that form a central court. Established in the space between the main structure (housing the family's living and eating quarters, as well as the children's and *au pair's* sleeping areas) and a separate "master suite," the court endows the site with a certain civic feeling, as if one has stepped into a private miniature village. The structure is enlivened by curiously oblique angles and the cool, clean lines of white beaded board. Throughout, the almost toy-like sense of scale is articulated in a classicized update of the local, 1930s "cottage vernacular." 🏠

J. Duncan Berry manages a Cape-based textile business and regularly contributes articles on architectural history and criticism to various publications.

CONTAINING COSTS: ADVICE FROM THE ARCHITECT

■ A frequent complaint against architects is the difficulty of containing costs. Architect Paul Krueger recommends that potential clients take the time to find and fully research the right architect—the style and the chemistry should feel right. Krueger maintains that one is buying "more than just a collection of materials and appliances—one is investing in a process that is intended to be rewarding, in every sense of the word, for many years to come."

■ To guarantee that all specifications are sufficiently detailed and fully explained from the outset, Krueger also advises that the whole process be handled in a professional manner. Late night meetings or consultations on the tennis court are less than productive. In addition, Krueger maintains, all contracting parties (that is *both* spouses) should participate fully in the process.

■ Finally, Krueger advises that changes made after construction is underway will always affect the budget unless one makes trade-offs for other design elements. Opting for trade-offs instead of piling small charge upon small charge will save enormously in the long run. —J.D.B. 🏠