

YOUR HOME | SUMMER LIVING

Once a sea captain's cottage, this Cotuit fixer-upper brings on the charm

Quaint meets fresh in an interior designer's 19th-century residence.

JOYELLE WEST

Designer Beth Odence, daughter Charlotte (holding Dexter the pug), and husband Phil enjoy lunch on the patio.

By Marni Elyse Katz

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Interior designer Beth Odence has a penchant for quirky abodes. Her first condo, which she bought in 1983, had been a second-grade classroom. Since then, she and her husband, Phil, have lived in an oft-added-to Dutch Colonial, a 1930s Art Deco-style home, an old farmhouse, a factory loft, and a bungalow whose resident iguana had discouraged all other potential buyers. Just over two years ago, they purchased a historic residence in the village of Cotuit on Cape Cod.

The 4,000-square-foot home — originally a small cottage, expanded over the years — belonged to two different sea captains in the 1800s. Having downsized after becoming empty nesters, the Odences wanted to upsize their beach house. Beth Odence runs her business, Design No. Five, out of the two-story guesthouse added long ago. The cedar-shake Cape, named Laughing Gull Hill by the previous owner, was in sorry shape and had been on the market for four years. The couple, last in a long line of prospective buyers to face the Barnstable Historical Commission, have been told they were the only ones who

did not propose tearing it down. “It has great bones,” Odence says. “I love its charm.”

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