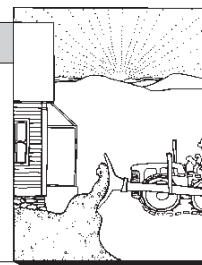


# Room With A View



1. The first job was to cut through a couple of feet of concrete at the top of the 17-foot tower to create a larger stair opening. The original masonry stairs terminated halfway up and ended with a ladder.



2. The octagonal frame was assembled on the ground and lifted into place—with openings for eight 4x6-foot windows. (Every other window has an operable awning panel at the bottom for ventilation. One window is split into two sets of double casements for emergency exit.)



3. The roof was framed in place for an accurate fit, then removed to receive its standing-seam copper finish. An ornamental copper globe with a spire was added later to cap off the roof.

The 1845 lighthouse was what attracted marine-antiques collectors Alan Granby and Janice Hyland to this \$400,000 property on nine-tenths of an acre overlooking Nantucket Sound on Massachusetts's Cape Cod. "I've always wanted a lighthouse," Granby said. "It's the biggest marine antique you can own."

When they acquired the property in 1985, the lighthouse stood about 17 feet tall, had about 30 coats of paint on the inside and outside, and had no lens room on top. The Coast Guard had carted the lens room away in 1929 when the lighthouse was removed from service. Despite their considerable efforts, the new owners could not track down the original structure with its massive Fresnel lenses.

With the blank lighthouse base as their starting point, the new owners decided to take a practical approach, rather than to adhere religiously to the original design. "We wanted to preserve the spirit of the original structure," said Hyland, "but create a practical, usable space." "Buildings have to grow and change to adapt to new owners and new uses," added Granby. The design and engineering job went to a neighboring sculptor Phil Piper of Dennis, Mass.

The new design called for a glass-enclosed room 11-feet in diameter—considerably larger than the original lens room—but with the same octagonal shape. The resulting room holds several chairs and a commanding view of the Atlantic. The renovation work completed by Piper along with builder Duncan Sullivan of Sandwich, Mass., is shown below.



4. Meanwhile, sculptor Piper had fabricated a spiral stair—designed to drop through the freshly sawn hole atop the lighthouse—with just a couple of inches tolerance.



5. After lowering the stair, the copper cap is gingerly set in place—raising the height of the tower to 30 feet.



6. The original lighthouse-keeper's house was worse off than the owners realized—including extensive rot in the post-and-beam frame. After receiving a gut-rehab and a new glass-faced addition overlooking Nantucket sound, the property looks ready to weather the next 100-plus years.