

COMFORTABLY *elegant*

by Constance Helstosky
design by Melanie Gowen Design
photos by Michael Lucas

Stepping off the bustle of Centre Street at number three, a welcoming entranceway awaits with a golden lightship house basket knocker that is distinctly Nantucket. As you approach the distinctive doorway, there is no denying you have finally arrived. This light, open loft feels spacious, despite its small square footage. Designed and created by Melanie Gowen, the attention to detail develops a comfortably elegant space that emulates the entire Nantucket experience. She has designed a space capable of being a stepping-stone to the vibrant downtown environment and bridge to the beautiful beaches, as well as an oasis to escape and relax. Centerloft will remain a memorable space for all who enter. This beautiful apartment is described as an independent loft for rent, complete with a hotel-worthy amenity experience.



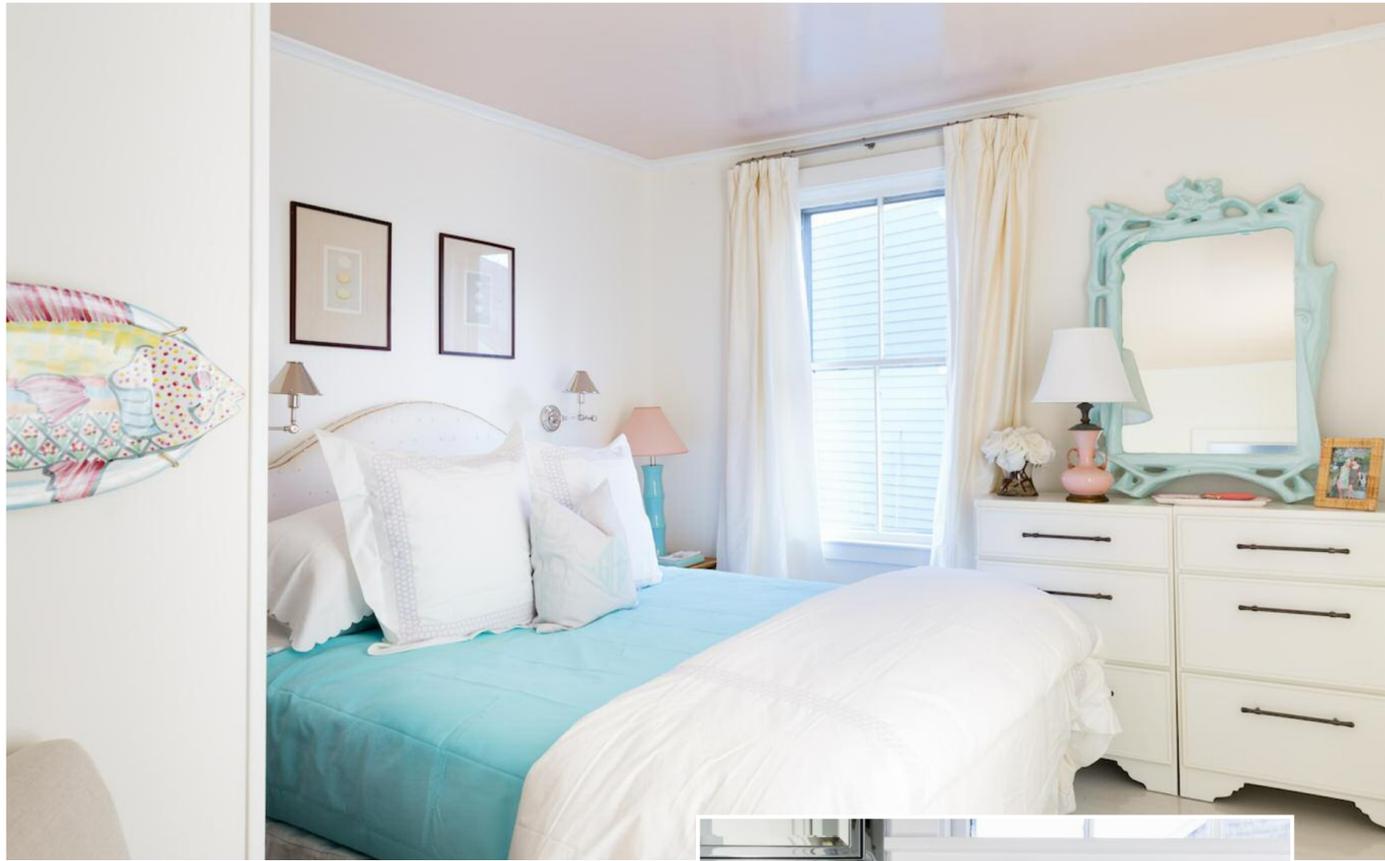


Once the front door is open, a light, open stairwell draws you up into the living quarters. Previously, the entire loft and entranceway was dark, dismal and in a distressed condition. Gowen worked tirelessly to transform that feeling into its opposite within four short months. The rope and boat cleat handrail that adorns the stairs is nautical, and playful with foot long vintage boat brass cleats that draw a person up the stairs. In addition, with the entranceway being a high traffic area, an antelope carpet runner was selected that will easily hide any excess sand tracked in from a day at the beach. The stairway begins the theme of white, light, and openness that easily flows throughout the entire space.

One design trick she used to create a bigger feeling in the kitchen/dining area with the living room was to literally open up the doorway. This created a sense of connectivity without eliminating a sense of privacy within the living room. The kitchen received a complete appliance update with all necessary requirements for a chef to feel comfortable to cater a meal. As with all of her designs, she created multiple levels of lighting creating depth and dynamic options for visitors. Dimmers allow for personal preference, at every level including underneath the cabinets, over the sink, and overhead. The beautiful chandelier draws the eye with its clean white and refreshing bright blue design. A double French porter chair, rehabbed by Gowen is a central piece that contrasts well with the simple acrylic bentwood chairs, and two washable white slip covered anchor chairs at the ends of the table. The kitchen and dining area gives off the impression of being much larger than it is, and space was conserved while focusing on key, unique pieces that enhance the overall experience.



As you move into the living room from the dining area the overhead sculptural paper-mache light that is reminiscent of a coral reef and two kelly green, eye-catching, sculptural lamps add playfulness to the clean, white room. All the fabrics Gowen uses are high performance, and the sleeper sofa and ottoman with storage space are wine spill safe. The selection of high-quality washable fabrics becomes even more important for a rentable space as the functionality and aesthetics of the fabrics must be held to a high standard. The living room does have the ability to be closed off, making it a comfortable second bedroom for a family with children or a second couple. In addition, the 48 inch built-in television can fully disappear for visitors who prefer a TV-less experience.



The bedroom's bright pops of pink and aqua remind guests of the beautiful treasures that surround them on island from the center of a beautiful shell, to the vibrant sea and sky. A distinctive hotel-suite feeling is accomplished through various details including a spacious closet complete with wood hangers for all a guest's clothing storage needs. There are different levels of light with his and hers switches and reading lights on either side of the bed. Long drapes complete with fashionable French cleats effortlessly maximize the height of the room, while providing a chic way to darken the room for an afternoon siesta. With a divinely comfortable mattress, any who spend an evening in Centerloft will feel pampered and relaxed in this dreamlike bedroom.

Despite restrictions when it came to the bath, Gowen was able to achieve a feeling of elegance and spaciousness. With recessed medicine cabinets, new light fixtures, and a sweet carrera marble for the vanity top creates a sense of clean luxury. In addition, a unique pocket sliding barn door with a silver star added space while emphasizing a unique playfulness to the bathroom's entrance. Nantucket is known for its history and antiquity, and many spaces throughout downtown including Centerloft are a relic of this past, and are not naturally spacious. It takes an extreme attention to detail and a creative design to transform such a space into a modern, open, light filled and elegant rental apartment for visitors. Gowen's design and details in Centerloft have created a whimsical, modern Nantucket vacation paradise.

With clean white lines, accompanied with pops of color and texture that add a delightful playfulness Centerloft will be a favorite destination for all who enter. Through levels of lighting and thoughtful selection of high-performance materials,



Gowen has created a fully livable design dipped in Nantucket elegance. With an ideal downtown location that will allow visitors the full Nantucket experience of nightlife, beaches, and relaxation it is a space to be cherished. Centerloft is currently available for rent, and she is available for various design services. In fact, she delights in the challenges of designing small spaces. As seen in her one-of-a-kind designs, she acknowledges that every decision really matters and there is no room for error, but the ultimate result is a rewarding experience for both her and the clients she serves. Centerloft is a shining example of Gowen's methods, and if you are looking for a wonderful place to stay this summer be sure to keep this amazing loft in mind.

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