



Left: The living room's George II oak cupboard from Robert Young Antiques is topped with a freestanding 19th-century whalebone swift for winding yarn; the club chairs are slipcovered in a Cowtan & Tout print.

Mention the phrase “decorating with antiques,” and a significant number of people are likely to think of stiff, old-fashioned rooms with brown furniture. Arie L. Kopelman, former president of Chanel Inc., and his wife, Coco—two halves of an avid collecting team—would beg to differ. “Rooms can have a clean, fresh, modern sensibility but still have traditional elements that let your mind wander through history,” says Arie, who also happens, not so coincidentally, to serve as the chairman of the Winter Antiques Show, an august annual New York City event that benefits the educational programs of East Side House Settlement. “Where you live,” he continues, “doesn’t have to look like Grandma’s house.”

Take, for instance, the Manhattan couple’s second home, on the Massachusetts isle of Nantucket. Behind the weathered shingle façade of the circa-1800 residence lie a dozen sunny, cheerful spaces that illustrate the Kopelmans’ philosophy—and their shared passion for American, English, and European country furniture. Period-style bells and whistles abound, including a ceiling crisscrossed with worn wood beams and a floor painted with a large-scale diamond pattern, but the overall effect is anything but mimsy. A rare red New England Chippendale corner chair plays the role of sculpture beneath the curving staircase, while startlingly modern-looking 19th-century Swedish armchairs flank a superb George II oak cupboard in the living room. Perhaps the success of these spaces springs from how the pair lives among the spoils of decades of antiques hunting: with a spirit of down-to-earth generosity. Their children (daughter Jill Kargman is a novelist, and son Will Kopelman, who marries actress Drew Barrymore this summer, is an art consultant to Hollywood stars and Silicon Valley movers and shakers) and grandchildren come and go throughout the season, so the Kopelmans expect the dwelling to see a certain amount of wear and tear. As Coco says, “We’re not collectors, we’re furnishers.”

When they purchased the charming, small-roomed home, in 1993, it had already gone through several alterations. Back in 1903 the building had been moved from an in-town lot to a suburban hill, and as time went by, additions



Opposite, from top: The kitchen's Thirty Acre Wood cabinetry is painted in a Benjamin Moore cream; the ceiling fixtures are by Ann-Morris Antiques, the refrigerator is by Sub-Zero, the range is by Thermador, and the barstools are by TK Collections. A curved staircase leads from the living room to the lower-level family room; the weather vane is 19th century, and the stoneware jugs are American.



Clockwise from far left: A contemporary oak dining table is paired with Windsor chairs from Nantucket House in the family room. The hall's sampler and drop-leaf table are both 19th-century English; the circa-1810 chair is from M. Finkel & Daughter. An 18th-century Swedish chest from Nantucket House shares a landing with a mirror from Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler Antiques. The painted-pine office is furnished with an overmantel mirror from Robert Young Antiques, and a desk chair and mahogany writing table, both 19th-century English.

