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# SAG HARBOR

When Richard Ferrari was searching for a house in Sag Harbor, New York, he looked no further than across the street, where his friend Bob Tortora was restoring an early 1800s home

Richard, working with architectural renovator Bob Tortora, preserved as many original elements as possible, including the pumpkin pine floors. He put a small addition on the house, composed of the bar and family room seen through the doorways (he also enlarged the master bedroom above). Richard requested bookshelves to line the dining room, giving the room a dual purpose, to house his library of Second World War history books. The room is painted Tabasco 18-1536 TPX by Pantone; [pantone.com](http://pantone.com). FOR RESOURCES, SEE ADDRESS INDEX.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH SCOTT MORTON PRODUCED BY PAMELA ABRAHAMS WRITTEN BY JILL KIRCHNER SIMPSON

# S

Sag Harbor is a small village on the bay on Long Island characterized by charming historic houses that date from the early to mid-1800s, when it was a thriving whaling port. These days, Sag Harbor's main business is tourism, but its *centuries-old houses* are still appreciated and preserved by its summer and year-round residents alike. Seven years ago, Richard Ferrari, a real estate agent in New York City, bought a tiny, early 1800s house that his friend Bob Tortora had renovated. When a larger house of similar vintage across the street came on the market three years later, Richard traded up, and Bob again renovated the house, preserving as much of the original architecture as possible, including the *pumpkin pine* floors, *handblown glass* windows, ceiling beams (uncovered beneath Sheetrock), and fireplace mantels. "The beauty of the floors and beams are 200 years' worth of nicks and crannies, warping, weathering, and nail holes. They look beautiful just as they are," says Richard. He and Bob updated the kitchen and baths with timeless materials, such as *mahogany countertops*, beadboard walls, and in the baths, subway tile and marble. They opened up the kitchen to a new family room addition with a sloping 11-foot ceiling, and Richard opted to add a few modern amenities such as air-conditioning and a pool. When it came time to choose paint colors for the house, Richard asked his neighbor, Steven Gambrel, a noted interior designer in New York City, for a favor. "I told him I wanted a yellow living room, a red dining room, and a blue kitchen. Steven rattled off paint numbers for each of them," says Richard, "and they all turned out perfectly."



LEFT: Richard holds his wire-haired dachshund, Charlie, next to Bob Tortora (far left), his contractor. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: The exterior was reclad in cedar shingles with a clapboard front and landscaped with boxwoods. One of three compact but inviting guest rooms. Richard added a pantry bar off the kitchen; a wine cooler is hidden in the cupboard with the old wooden door. The buttercream-colored living room, in Afterglow 11-0510 TPX by Pantone, boasts original windows and an early fireplace mantel that was painted black. THROWS ON CHAIR, SOFA: GARNET HILL.





ALL THE NICKS AND NAIL HOLES IN THE OLD WOOD TELL THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE.

A mix of old and new warms the kitchen, with mahogany countertops (replacing 1960s Formica), stainless-steel appliances, and the existing cabinets, probably from the 1940s, painted Smoke 14-4505 TPX by Pantone, with black iron hinges. Creamy beadboard walls and open shelves instead of upper cabinets keep the room light. The kitchen opens to the new family room, with bookshelves in the same blue. Bob found antique floorboards in Maine to use for the addition. NAPKINS, GARNET HILL