



PHOTOS BY JASON WARNEY

### Chic Yet Casual

The challenge with the dining room in the 2010 Cape May Designer Show House was that it's part of a functioning inn as well as a family home. It had to be posh enough for out-of-town guests as well as suitable for everyday family meals. Gretchen Kubiak of Black & Poole answered the challenge with a sophisticated glossy navy paint on the walls and modern furnishings that look fresh and relaxed but don't clash with the yesteryear style visitors expect in Victorian Cape May. The clean lines of a trestle dining table that seats 12 and masculine yet chic chairs with buttery leather seats and ticking-style upholstered backs appealed to the inn's owners. Kubiak balanced those with more contemporary lighting and photography. Two radiators that jutted into the narrow room didn't allow room for storage, so Kubiak built around the radiators to add narrow shelving and a dark gray and blue granite top that can be used for serving. She painted the built-ins, trim and ceiling white and used creamy canvas window treatments to balance the walls. And those navy walls? "I wanted to show people that dark colors can be very attractive and livable," she says. The photo above the table is "Camargue," 2006 by Edward McHugh. The photo beside the sconce is "Monturque," 2000, by Richard Kagan.

SOURCES: design, Gretchen Kubiak of Black & Poole in Philadelphia; walls, Sherwin Williams Liberty Blue exterior in high gloss; table, Restoration Hardware; chairs, Lee through Host in Philadelphia; Ziyi chandelier and ring sconces, Circa Lighting in Savannah, Georgia; photographs, Gallery 339 in Philadelphia.