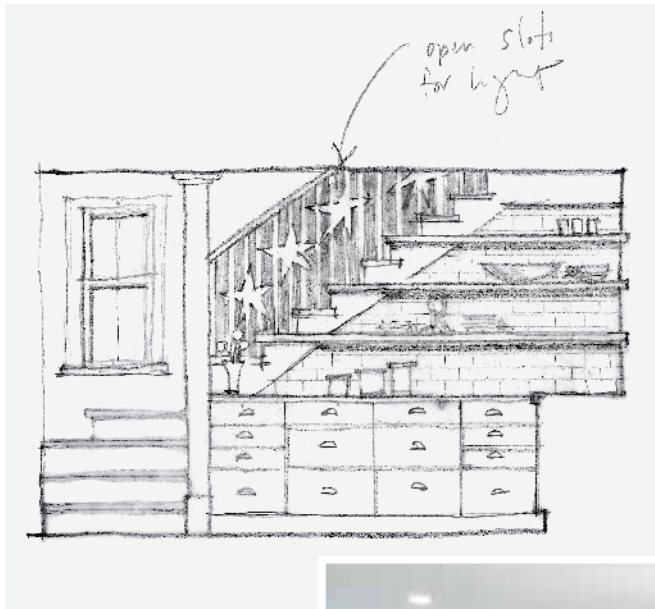


Sketch Pad

Design Ideas in the Making



☞ The original concept for this “stairway to heaven,” created for a house in the West Chop area of Tisbury on Martha’s Vineyard, came up at the schematic design stage: given that the kitchen and the stairway needed to be in more or less the same spot, what solutions would let in plenty of natural light while keeping dust and dirt from falling onto the shelves and counters?

Combining those two requirements meant open railings, but not too open, which made me think of plank balusters with cutouts raised up above the level of the stair treads. Easygoing clients allowed for a little bit of spontaneity, and the fact that they also have a house in Texas is what accounts for the stars. The idea of extending every other stair to create open shelving along the kitchen wall helps tie the two spaces together in a cohesive way.

With the stair parts made by Horner Millwork and skillfully assembled by

Laurence Clancy and his Clancy Construction team (who also built the shelves), it all binds into a unified whole that’s a little bit different, a little bit fun.

| *William C. (Chuck) Sullivan, Sullivan + Associates Architects, Oak Bluffs, Mass., (508) 693-0500, sullivanassociatesarchitects.com*

