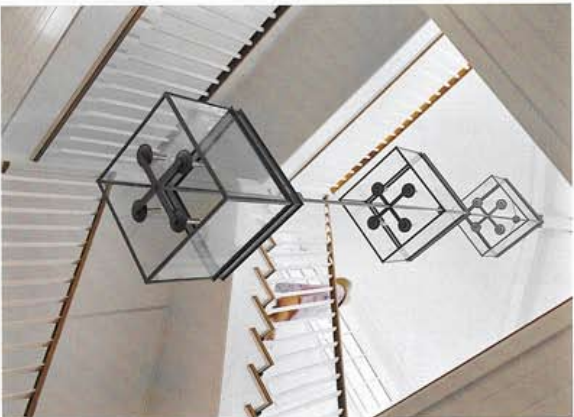




METROPOLITAN HOME
 JULY/AUGUST 2008 / CUSTOM

THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO.



Five years ago, D'Aquino Monaco designed the Gettings' Manhattan apartment. Hiring the partners for the beach house was a no-brainer; Jennifer says, "When you do a house, you

have to like the people you work with, because you're in contact with them all the time."
 The house's most dramatic feature is a three-story-high stairwell. "When you walk in the door," says Monaco, "it gives you a great sense of arrival. You just can't resist looking up."
 Not surprisingly, each part of the stairwell was carefully thought out; D'Aquino and Monaco even built a section of the railing in their office. When it came to lighting, it was D'Aquino's idea to combine three *Chatham Hall* fixtures from the Urban Electric Company of Charleston, South Carolina (designed by Michael Amato), into a single "chandelier" that resembles a box kite. Monaco worked with D'Aquino to ensure that the topmost cube would line up with the millions of the stairwell windows. Then

Jennifer Gettings swung into action, flying from New York to Charleston to review the choice of finishes. Given the prominence of the fixture, she says, "the trip was worth the time and money."
 The couple wanted furniture that looked casual but not worklike, so D'Aquino avoided linen upholstery, choosing practical indoor-outdoor fabrics. (See What the Pros Know, page 112.) As for patterns, he chose checks and plaids that relate to the house's nautical windows and gilded ceilings.
 This page (from left): The central staircase with its triple-decker chandelier; the view from the bay. Opposite: in the dining area, a handmade Lane credenza and an Egon table from BDOV, as well as Ezel hanging fixtures (by Jassef Sarruf), both from Gewissler; photo-graph by Dirk Westphal