

HOME OF THE WEEK

236 Commercial Street

by Lise S. Beane

"Give me the sunlight and the sea, and who shall take my heaven from me?"

— Alfred Noyes (1880-1958), British poet

With dreams of spring and fresh salt in the air, one's fancies turn to the sea. Exploring Boston's exciting harbor front can lead to many adventures. Here amidst historic landmark scenery, granite wharves and charming streets, the sea is ever present.

Across the street from the Pilot House and Lewis Wharf at 236 Commercial Street is a brick building built in 1890 and converted to condominiums in 1986. Its top three floors comprise a spectacular triplex penthouse. In it are the kinds of dramatic interiors that showcase a seafaring Boston in all its moods and majesty.

Imagine standing on pegged oak floors in a beamy living room with soaring vaulted ceilings, four panels of skylights and direct water views of Boston Harbor in front of you. The feeling is like being on the deck of a 19th century sailing ship with the sky above and the sea below. The light is so good in the spacious living-dining area that the owner of this penthouse grows lemon trees and exotic orchids here. You feel as though you are on Darwin's *HMS Beagle* returned from far-off ports of call.

The living room's expansive glass sliders face Boston Harbor and open to a large private deck with wrought iron railing overlooking the street and lively harbor. Vibrant views of sail boats, barges and tugs provide an ever changing scene and Logan airport's runways are on the horizon. This large deck is ten feet deep and 20 feet wide. It has water and electricity, which make it the perfect perch for summer evening parties or watching the fireworks during Boston's Harborfest.

The main, second floor of this triplex features its central living space with atrium living room, dining room and large,

square, open kitchen with wrap around oak counter and brass foot rail. It is easy and casual to cook and entertain for family and friends here. The kitchen has a Chambers four burner gas cook top, Kitchenaid dishwasher, Thermador Oven and refrigerator/ freezer. To the back of this floor are a large family room with windows and an adjoining half bath with sculptural sink and commode.

Upstairs on the top floor of the triplex is the master bedroom suite, which is a lofty luxury retreat for first mates. The master bedroom has direct "crow's-nest" views of Boston Harbor from six cut-out windows. Angled skylight windows offer scenes of the sky by day and stars at night. The adjoining master bathroom is tiled in a lustrous marble. It has a double sink and unique, custommade, double-wide glass enclosed shower. There is plenty of closet space in the master bedroom suite.

The first floor of the residence is where a delightful surprise is found. This triplex was once two condominiums which are now joined. For people who love exciting options, the first floor provides the ultimate in versatility. It has two bedrooms, two full bathrooms, eat-in kitchen, large foyer and laundry. While the feeling of the first floor is in keeping with the rest of the triplex, it can easily be used as a separate in-law apartment, au pair suite, home office with a one bedroom apartment, children's bedrooms or private guest quarters.

This triplex penthouse embodies the adventurous spirit of intown living at its best. Filled with historic charm, it is emblematic of Boston's harbor front. 236 Commercial Street is convenient to the downtown area, North End, Aquarium, Faneuil Hall and boat trips to Boston's outer islands waiting to be explored.

The triplex penthouse is offered at \$1,450,000 and listed with Carmela Laurella of Otis & Aheam at 227-6070.

