Country Cottage,

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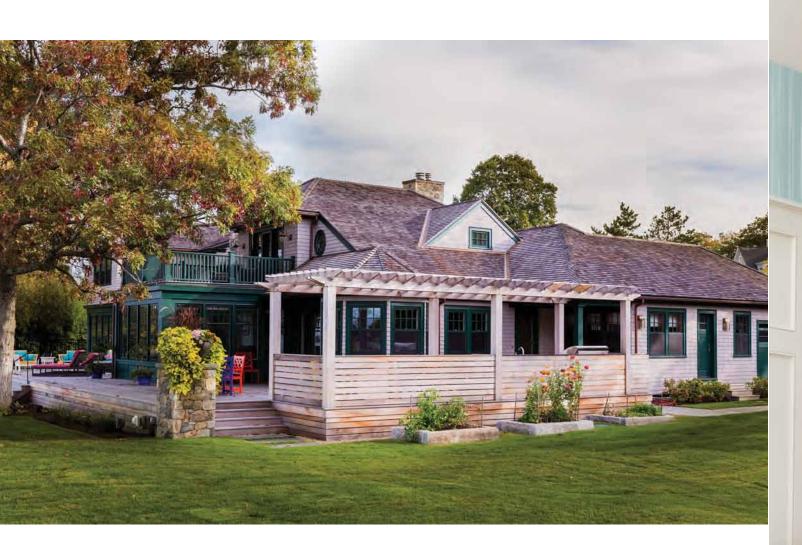


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See how color, light and elegant textures combine in this cottage on the cape.

BY AUTUMN KRAUSS PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL J. LEE



THE FIRST RULE OF COASTAL DECORATING is find the view; then dress everything else accordingly. When Elizabeth Swartz's clients requested a country cottage with upscale, city style, she knew one thing would be primary: the stunning coastal landscape. The original split-level, three-bedroom Massachusetts home was nestled right next to the waterfront but didn't highlight the breathtaking views.

"This was a completely new construction on an existing footprint," Elizabeth says. "It was important for the new house to take advantage of the fabulous views."

The results are a two-story, four-bedroom masterpiece that features a glass-enclosed sunroom, windowed breakfast nook, and indoor and outdoor kitchens, all designed to let in the ever-changing sky and sea. With sharp pops of color, timeless furnishings and unique uses of patterns, Elizabeth created a seaside paradise without succumbing to the obvious themes of creams and seashells.

SUNROOM BLISS

While lots of East Coast homeowners use their cottages for weekend getaways, Elizabeth's clients wanted one place for both weekday and weekend living. Since they have grown children, they requested both gathering places for get-togethers and hideaways for focused work. With its huge windows, the sunroom was the perfect balance for their needs, a stunning place for reflection that could easily double as a comfy spot for hangouts. "We wanted to celebrate the water and provide a fun, casual environment," Elizabeth says.

The three walls were framed in windows and Elizabeth selected clean white paint, roll-up blinds and green quartzite tiles for the floor. The furniture is a mix of traditional and casual pieces that kept the focus on the windows. Elizabeth incorporated patterns and pops of color, giving the sunroom a summery feel year round.

| OPPOSITE | MAKE IT OVER.

The homeowner incorporated a lot of her existing furnishings but had them restyled for a more casual, fun look. She wanted a comfortable yet traditional vibe.





FUN FIRST. Elizabeth found several patterned fabrics to reupholster the homeowners' existing furniture. The only requirement was that they were playful so the rooms didn't feel too formal.

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BREAKFAST SANCTUARY

Elizabeth oversaw construction on a custom dining nook designed to "bump out" from the room and hand selected brightly colored striped fabric for custom cushions and curtains. While the homeowners chose tranquil hues in other areas of the home, they loved explosions of color in artful places, including the nook, where color offset the dark-stained oak floors.

"The nook's bold colors and patterns were chosen to be bright, cheerful and fun," Elizabeth says. "They help create a more casual look and feel, while allowing the traditionally detailed custom cabinetry, millwork and furnishings to anchor the spaces."

CLEVER KITCHENS

Easily the house's crown jewels, the indoor and outdoor kitchens allow the homeowners to seamlessly transition between settings and give them the option to entertain either inside or out in the open. Elizabeth included a sink, grill and burner in the outdoor kitchen, specifically for cooking lobsters. "The homeowners are known for their lobster dinners on the water," she says. The couple often take their skiff across the harbor to the farmer's market and purchase lobsters from the back of a truck.







| OPPOSITE | RAINBOW SHERBET. The

bright color theme continues in the breakfast nook where pinks, green and citrus tones capitalize on the bay window light, making a sweet sunny spot. The window treatments, allowing the couple to let in the coastal breezes, were motorized for their convenience.

> **ISLAND STYLE.** The long, narrow kitchen island sports drawers for seamless extra storage.

WITH FEELING. Bross Blue Brushed marble topped the kitchen counters and created a dramatic backsplash. Elizabeth picked it for its textured finish.

WITH SHARP POPS OF

COLOR, TIMELESS FURNISHINGS AND UNIQUE USES OF PATTERNS, ELIZABETH CREATED A SEASIDE PARADISE WITHOUT SUCCUMBING TO THE OBVIOUS THEMES OF CREAMS AND SEASHELLS.

The appliances were purchased as stainless steel bodies, since they would be durable and provide weather-tight storage. The bodies were inserted into wood surroundings that tied together both kitchens, giving them an integrated look.

Stunning color interplay and breathtaking views make this home the ideal seaside getaway for this busy couple. It functions wonderfully for the two of them yet effortlessly accommodates visits from their children and grandchildren, too—truly the perfect city-chic, country cottage. 🖪

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Consider motorizing your window treatments. It can be difficult to draw curtains on large windows, but you will want to control the light and your privacy.

view, opt for classically elegant pieces in calming colors. It will keep the focus on the view without competing with it.

