

Country Cottage, CITYCHIC

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

BY AUTUMN KRAUSS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL J. LEE

CHEER UP. Incorporating the homeowners' love for patterns, Elizabeth included two cheery gingham ottomans, perfectly offsetting the beige armchairs and couch but not distracting from the view.



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.





HAPPY PLACE. The homeowners wanted their home to be comfortable for family gatherings, so Elizabeth created a warm and inviting environment in the living room with botanical-print armchairs and a light blue couch.

THE FURNITURE IS A MIX OF TRADITIONAL AND CASUAL PIECES THAT KEPT THE FOCUS ON THE WINDOWS.

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.



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.



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. **CB**

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





Benjamin
Moore's Rosy
Blush pink

ROSE-COLORED GLASSES. In order to give the home study a bright, bold aesthetic, Elizabeth selected Benjamin Moore's Rosy Blush pink for the main wall. It created a focal point against the white furniture and custom wool carpets.

PASTEL PALETTE. While statement colors were used in the office and bathroom, the homeowners wanted a tranquil environment in their master bedroom and opted for soft greens and blues to tie in with their waterfront view. The room was designed to be opened up or closed off, depending on their needs.



FINISHING TOUCHES. Cosa Calacatta marble tiles were used in the shower and accented with white Caesar Stone shower jambs.



STONE FACED. The master bathroom featured a diverse use of marble, including Alba Chiara slabs chosen for their beautiful green and rose-colored veins.

Design With a View

WHETHER YOU ARE DESIGNING YOUR SPACE AROUND A LUSH BACKYARD, OCEAN VIEW OR MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE, HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND.

Floor-to-ceiling windows are a great way to keep your view front and center. However, opt for two or three stacked windows instead of just one big one. That way, your windows will have visual appeal and dimension.

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.

Make sure your window coverings enhance or compliment the great view—rather than distract from it.

Keep your furnishings a little subtle. If you have a stunning view, opt for classically elegant pieces in calming colors. It will keep the focus on the view without competing with it.