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This balcony, comfortable chair and ocean-hued stylings make for a charmed location to enjoy the magnificent waterfront vistas.

The Quintessence of VINEYARD STYLE

A textured and colorful palette brings beach cheer to a classic Martha's Vineyard home on Lake Tashmoo.

By Diana Turowski
Photography by Eric Roth and Crown Point Cabinetry

Interior designer Elizabeth Swartz has given an updated twist to a classic Vineyard design, creating a special place at the renovated Tashmoo Cottage on Martha's Vineyard that is authentic to the island and provides easy modern living. Elizabeth wanted "to create an atmosphere that was refreshing, calming and comfortable." She says, "The color palette looks to beachy blues, greens, grays and whites for an uplifting oceanside feel." Elizabeth worked to create a space that was both cozy cottage and fresh waterside escape. She says it was important to her clients "that the renovated cottage retain the scale and island vernacular."

In the living room, the stone fireplace surround, wood stove and reclaimed wood coffee table maintain the home's warm feel, while the hydrangeas, fresh white shelving and neutral sofa solidify the classic beach house design. The open and airy stairwell continues this theme with a large window, brass nautical-inspired sconces and beadboard. These details mesh seamlessly to create a comfortable home that reflects the cottage's origins and island surroundings.



The stone fireplace with wood-burning stove emits warmth and comfort on cool nights by the lake.

“Overall, we wanted the space to be bright, beachy and cheerful, and the custom cabinetry and built-ins throughout the house really help to achieve this.”



The open-concept space allows the conversation to flow from the kitchen to the living room. The space-saving built-ins in a neutral white allow the stone fireplace to be a central fixture, giving a rustic ambiance to the home.

The kitchen is a focal point of the home, styled in a stunning blue. Elizabeth says that “the color makes this kitchen!” It reflects the Scandinavian heritage of the homeowner and adds a unique flavor to the traditional, shingle-style cottage, while at the same time being a near-perfect match for the blue water outside the kitchen window. Elizabeth says she looked to the natural colors of the island for inspiration. “Overall, we wanted the space to be bright, beachy and cheerful, and the custom cabinetry and built-ins throughout the house really help to achieve this.” The open-concept kitchen is separated from the living area by a peninsula useful for storage and seating. It allows the main floor to feel large by not closing down either the living space or the kitchen.

The bathrooms were designed to provide modern convenience with classic beach house décor. The cabinetry in all bathrooms is kept white, and marble countertops give a luxurious look. Pale green walls and tiles offer a serene spa-like ambiance in addition to tying in with the nautical style. Wicker baskets—easy to add to almost any room—provide useful storage while contributing texture and a break from the many smooth surfaces.

The lower-level media room provides a comfortable space for lounging and watching television. The walls are beadboard, and nautically inspired brass sconces are used again to keep with the running theme. The white built-ins provide functional storage and a custom-finished look, while the dark sea-foam sectional is comfortable seating so friends and family can relax in a casual setting.

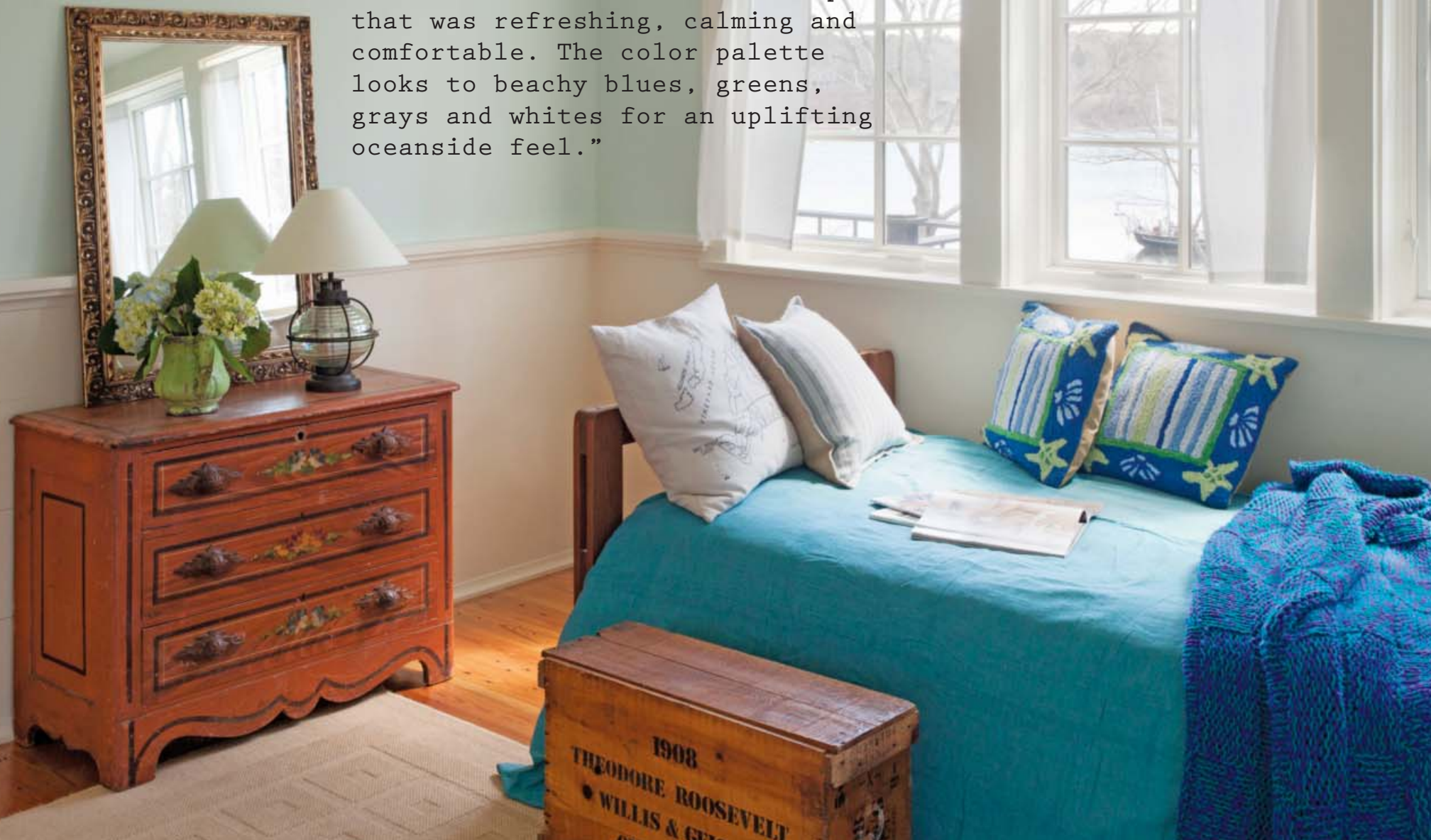
Above: Nautical décor and wood furnishings add to the casual beach-house appeal of the residence.

Right: Natural elements are at work in this charming open-concept kitchen with blue custom cabinets, nautical lighting and beadboard highlights.



Vintage pieces coordinate nicely with aquatic tints and accessories in this spare bedroom with a view.

“[I wanted] to create an atmosphere that was refreshing, calming and comfortable. The color palette looks to beachy blues, greens, grays and whites for an uplifting oceanside feel.”



Nautical trimmings adorn the storage area with its hooks for hanging coats, bags or clothes—a great space-saving solution for a tight spot.



This stylish cottage also uses space creatively. Elizabeth strives to make each area useful as well as decorative: “Wherever possible, additional space was gained through the use of built-in storage, shelving and furniture—in almost every room! ... in the master bath we incorporated efficient storage solutions within the vanity with shelving, drawers and storage under the sink cabinet. The vertical space is an innovative way to gain extra storage out of a tight space and incorporates a Hafele pullout hardware unit.” This creative solution would work well in any tight spot. From apartments to yachts and cottages to castles, these shelving and storage ideas can provide valuable space, giving any room a finished and luxurious feel.

The exterior of the Tashmo Cottage is covered in white cedar shingles, which eventually will turn a beautiful gray, weathered-wood tone from exposure to the salt air. The home sits amid the trees with views of the lake, an ideal refuge.

TRENDS OF THE TIDE

How to bring the feel of casual, beach chic to your design

Elements from the Sea

Adding nautical accessories can also help achieve a stylish coastal feel. Here a vase with hydrangeas, a nautical lamp and seaside-themed throw pillows take a neutral room and transform it into beach house chic.

Tight Quarters and Timeless Textures

For the quaint cottage feel, choose textures like brick, wicker, beadboard and reclaimed wood. Neutral textured rugs pull the room together—look to a seagrass or jute rug for an inexpensive and quick way to make a change to any room.

Light Up the Night

Don't forget about the lighting; lighting is key in any living and entertaining space. Use hurricane and votive candles liberally for a soft beachy look. Lamps on dimmers also help create the kind of look you want.

Shades from the Shore

Stick to whites, creams and the beachy blues, greens and grays that are used here. These are the go-to colors for any classic seaside décor.

For more information on this design and Elizabeth Swartz Interiors, (617) 421-0800 or elizabethswartzinteriors.com.