

NAPLES EDITION

FLORIDA DESIGN

Autumn At Home

**Gorgeous Residences
in Naples and Beyond**

**COTTAGE CACHET
A Waterside Reinvention
in Fort Myers Beach**





MICHELLE STAHL

Freestyle Interiors & Design
"Cottage Cachet," page 152

Restoring historic properties to new glory is as rewarding as interior design commissions get. Michelle Stahl recently got to flex those muscles at a 1940s-era cottage in Fort Myers Beach that she modernized into the spectacular beach house that fronts this edition's cover. Stahl researched similar properties before tackling the job to ensure everything was done to her specific liking. "It was about creating a new home," she says, "but we also wanted to honor the original style and architecture."



HAILEY BURHARDT & SHERRI DUPONT

Collins DuPont Design Group
"Nautical Notes," page 162

A residence on the water with a boat garage all but screams nautical design. For Sherri DuPont and Hailey Burhardt, however, the key to a Mangrove Bay home was to incorporate the maritime look in subtle ways that didn't venture into cliché territory. "We chose a contemporary nautical décor that doesn't knock you over the head," says DuPont. "It's a traditional maritime look with a wink and a smile." Their subdued coastal vibe works in every way.



WENDY BERRY

W Design
"Next-Level Style," page 170

When a Midwestern couple hired Wendy Berry to spearhead the design of their Naples' penthouse in Kalea Bay, the husband and wife were clear about what they did not want: coastal influences. "They wanted clean and modern; a residence that [would be just as appropriate] in New York City or Chicago," says Berry. The designer delivered on that directive with a metropolitan vibe that's nuanced, textured, and full of visual surprises. "It's a sophisticated space that's in tune with their active Naples lifestyle."



MINKA MCDONALD

Jinx McDonald Interior Design
"Modern Monochrome," page 180

Designer Minka McDonald likes to incorporate color into her projects, and most of her clients ask her to raise the volume on hues as far as coastal homes are concerned. But a recent commission in Downtown Naples called for the opposite of that. The Ronto Group instructed McDonald and Lucy Warren to design a condo model unit using a mostly black and white palette. McDonald delivered with a residence that the designer calls "elevated, sophisticated, organic, warm, young, and current."



GLORIA BLACK

Gloria Black Design
"New History," page 188

A new build in North Naples for a New England family recently allowed designer Gloria Black to do something she wasn't expecting. The clients urged her to incorporate Old World ideas into the built-from-scratch residence, and Black did not disappoint them. "I endeavored to achieve classical architectural elements mixed with fresh, clean furnishings, and finishes," says Black. "A mix of old and new; honoring history, yet enhancing it for today's lifestyle." In other words: the best of both worlds.



RANDI SCOTT

Calusa Bay Design
"Gulf Gem," page 200

As soon as a Vermont couple decided to make the move to a high-rise Naples residence by the water, they called Randi Scott and Liz Brown of Calusa Bay Design to give the property its design identity. "They requested light wood floors and dark wood features, which is something you don't hear very often in Naples," says Scott. "And no florals or botanicals of any kind. Just a straightforward schematic of whites, grays, and navies that tied into the finishes and wouldn't compete with their art collection."



ROD ASHMORE & CARLEEN YOUNG

Ashmore Design
"Great Expectations," page 208

A recent model home commission put the talents of Rod Ashmore and Carleen Young to the test. The duo was asked to design a 4,700-square-foot residence in Naples, and midway through the project, they were directed to incorporate the Tommy Bahama Palm Desert collection into the design. The team came through with a contemporary residence distinguished by custom ceiling features and a polished mid-century modern vibe that sold the place in record time.



ALEX THIES

Adelyn Charles
"A Step Above," page 216

Soon after a Midwestern couple enlisted Potter Homes to build their dream vacation home from the ground up, they called on Alex Thies to oversee the design of the residence, something that the designer says made all the difference: "Our niche is new beachfront construction, and when we get involved at the very start of a project, we have an opportunity to deliver everything at a higher level." True to her word, Thies gave her clients a beachside retreat that's sophisticated and cozy.

Cottage Cachet

A DESIGN INTERVENTION
TRANSFORMS A FORGOTTEN
FORT MYERS BEACH HOUSE
INTO A CONTEMPORARY
RETREAT WITH COASTAL
CHARM GALORE

INTERIOR DESIGN MICHELLE STAHL,
FREESTYLE INTERIORS & DESIGN,
BONITA SPRINGS, FL
BUILDER DIAMOND CUSTOM HOMES,
NAPLES, FL
TEXT MICHELLE PAYER
PHOTOGRAPHY VENJHAMIN REYES,
MIAMI, FL

Once closed off, the sunroom now makes the most of the home's ocean views. It's an open space with pocket doors that lead directly to a whitewashed cedar terrace. "That's where we spend most of our time, looking out to the Gulf and watching people walk their dogs or ride their bicycles," says the wife. "The viewpoint is so different from being high up in a condo. Being at eye level with the sand makes you want to step outside and enjoy the outdoors."





ABOVE: The interior designer and homeowner, who became close friends during the design process, spent hours together choosing the Viz Art glass wall décor for the entry foyer. The colorful collection is perched above a tactile Pottery Barn bench and a C Company rug.

IN LIFE AND REAL ESTATE, some things are meant to be. A few years back, when one half of a Minnesota couple was vacationing with her friends in Fort Myers Beach, the owner of the house she was staying at casually mentioned the neighboring cottage was for sale. Intrigued by the property's 75-year history and the fact that it had only had two owners in all those decades piqued her interest. Upon closer inspection, she realized the place reminded her of a beach painting she had purchased while traveling through Belize. A few months later, the woman and her husband were the proud owners of the oceanfront gem. Then began the arduous process of transforming the structure into their Gulf Coast vacation home.

Although the local permit process would have made razing the old structure and building anew a much quicker endeavor, the owners committed to a painstaking, multi-year restoration to preserve the cottage's history, use parts of the old shell in its refresh, and create a modern, cozy getaway just steps from the sand and surf.

"The original was old and dark with wood paneling on the walls and a blocked-off sunroom that did nothing," says Michelle Stahl, an interior



In the living room, the beach cottage vibe is achieved with white wainscoting, nickel gap trim, a faux wood beamed ceiling, and original pine floors that were meticulously restored. The homeowners selected all the home's accent pieces, including turquoise table lamps that complement the art, a CTH Sherrill coffee table, and a jute area rug by Abbey.



designer with Freestyle Interiors who spearheaded the renovation. “I said, ‘Let’s rip down some walls and open this home up.’”

Before such pronouncements, however, Stahl had done her homework. She researched the cottage’s architectural details and toured historic homes along the same vein in St. Augustine and Koreshan State Park in Lee County. “It was about creating a new home while honoring the original 1940s style,” she says. “I looked closely at the time period, which is how I got the idea for the home’s trim, wainscoting, and other details.”

This studied approach ensured the home would enter the twenty-first century while staying true to its provenance. Overall, the desired beach vibe was achieved with a mostly neutral color palette, beamed ceilings, and chunky textures (such as rattan and jute) throughout. Pops of pink, turquoise, and blue (via pillows and other accessories) solidify the coastal charm. The Freestyle Interiors team brought wrought-iron spindles and wood newel posts to stairs leading to a

LEFT: The home’s dining room and kitchen areas boast front plate glass and side windows that invite the beach inside. Turquoise touches come from a grand Currey & Company chandelier, iridescent pendant lighting, and bold glass tiles. A natural wood dining table with wicker chairs complements the kitchen’s original pine flooring and tactile, hammered nickel sink.



new second floor. There, in a space entirely devoted to the homeowners' primary suite and office, and in the lower guest bedrooms, light oak complements the original pine flooring, which was restored to its former glory. The light-filled kitchen nods to old and new with a retro La Cornue stove, iridescent pendant lighting, and a bright aqua chandelier. Nearby, the dining room is a study in textures thanks to ample wicker chairs surrounding a wood table. As for that aforementioned sunroom? It was reborn—complete with glass-framed pocket doors—and now connects the living room and dining area while boasting the best views of the water from anywhere in the home.

Outside, a palette of radiant yellow with turquoise (in the form of shutters and doors) ensures the house can be spotted by the boaters who cruise by, a thought that brings a smile to Stahl's face. "It's the most fun project I've ever worked on," she says. "A truly special house."



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LEFT: A sunny first-floor guest bathroom is simple, yet inviting with retro white wall tiles, rattan-framed mirrors, and nautical-style lights above a freestanding white vanity.



ABOVE: The owner asked that every bedroom in the residence have its own unique ceiling. This first-floor guestroom's design visually enlarges the space, while wide French doors lead to a whitewashed terrace.

RIGHT: A most cheerful laundry room repurposes one of the home's original refurbished doors on an updated slider. Annie Selke blossom wallpaper surrounds a stacked washer/dryer, lemon yellow floor-to-ceiling cabinets, a large farmhouse sink, white subway tile back walls, and a hexagon-shaped marble floor.

The homeowners summarize the expansive second-floor primary suite with its covered deck and unobstructed Gulf views in one word: “yummy.” Although designer Michelle Stahl was apprehensive about the paint color requested, Behr’s Pearly White shade works perfectly. A framed Palecek piece made of hand-cut coconut shells above a Robert James rattan-and-wood bed complements textured Anthropologie nightstands for beach-chic style.



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The first-floor guestroom is grounded in a cheerful aqua paint, reflecting the nearby ocean. A customized Vanguard nightstand is a practical touch between two queen rattan beds.

SOURCES

SUNROOM

Sofa – Lexington Home Brands, High Point, NC
 Club chairs reupholstered by Pindler & Pindler
 Fabric, Bahama Upholstery, Fort Myers, FL
 Bench – Currey & Company, Atlanta, GA
 Fabric – Jane Churchill Fabric, Raebeca Drapery by Design, Bonita Springs, FL
 Area rug – Abbey Carpet and Floor, Naples, FL

ENTRY

Bench – Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com
 Glass art – Wilson Lighting, Bonita Springs, FL
 Area rug – Company C, Concord, NH

LIVING ROOM

Sofa – Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com
 Abstract pillows – D.V. Kap Home, dvkap.com
 Cocktail table – CTH Sherrill Occasional, sherrill-occasional.com
 Table lamps – Pacific Coast Lighting, Chatsworth, CA
 Mirror – Shades of Light, Richmond, VA
 Area rug – Abbey Carpet and Floor, Naples, FL

KITCHEN AND BREAKFAST AREA

Cabinetry and island fabricated by Kitchens by Clay, Naples, FL
 Backsplash – Design Works, Naples, FL
 Stools – Universal Furniture, Conover, NC
 Pendant lighting – Shades of Light, Richmond, VA
 Table and chairs – Essentials for Living, Foothill Ranch, CA
 Chandelier – Currey & Company, Atlanta, GA

GUEST ROOM (PINK)

Bedside chests – Lexington Home Brands,

High Point, NC

Lamps – Wilford and Lee, Fort Myers, FL

GUEST BATHROOM

Mirrors – Selamat, High Point, NC

Lighting – Kichler Lighting, kichler.com

LAUNDRY ROOM

Bar cart – Serena and Lily, serenaandlily.com
 Wallpaper – Annie Selke, annieselke.com
 Barn door refurbished – Diamond Custom Homes, Naples, FL

PRIMARY BEDROOM

Bed – Robert James Collection, robertjamescollection.com

Bedside chests – Anthropologie, Naples, FL

Lamps – Wilford and Lee, Fort Myers, FL

Club chair – Burton James, City of Industry, CA

Artwork above bed – Palecek, Richmond, CA

Area rug – Company C, Concord, NH

GUEST BEDROOM (AQUA)

Bed – Universal Furniture, Conover, NC

Bedside chest – Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com

Lamp – Wayfair, wayfair.com

THROUGHOUT

Wainscoting – Diamond Custom Homes,

Naples, FL

Plantation shutters – Devlin Shutters, Fort Myers, FL

Window shades – Automated Shading and Light Control, Bonita Springs, FL

Ceiling beams – Diamond Custom Homes,

Naples, FL

Ceiling fans – Lighting First, Bonita Springs, FL

Flooring – Feil Flooring, Fort Myers, FL