

# COASTAL LIVING®

25 DAYS OF  
Gift Guide  
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## BEACHY & BRIGHT

HOW TO DECK YOUR HALLS  
WITH SEASIDE SPARKLE

**COOKIES &  
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Our Most Fun  
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**TREES THAT SHINE**  
with Sea-inspired  
Looks You'll Love

**CHEERS!**  
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DECEMBER 2015/  
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Dreaming of a Sunny Escape?

FLIP THE ISSUE!



# HAVENS

Fresh, New Ideas for Coastal Homes

COASTAL  
LIVING

2015 IDEA  
COTTAGE

## MAKEOVER MAGIC

Bold color and space-saving ideas turn a 1980s Florida bungalow into a cozy, contemporary haven

BY MARISA SPYKER

The Allura siding is painted Amherst Gray, and the railings are painted Cloud Cover, both by Benjamin Moore. The windows and doors are by Integrity. The curtain panel fabric is by Sunbrella.





The designers added fan palms, wax myrtles, and potted elephant ears to the existing Florida foliage.

**THE BEST BEACH HOUSES** often come in small packages. So for our first renovation showhouse, we wanted to celebrate one of the most classic—and compact—seaside dwellings: the beach cottage. Working with design duo Mark and Paige Schnell, along with builder Peter Horn of Artisan, Inc., we transformed a decades-old fixer-upper into a 2,500-square-foot retreat. It's tucked into the coastal town of Seagrove, Florida, "one of the oldest beachfront towns along 30A," says Horn, who grew up spending summers in the community, which is part of the 26-mile stretch of shore known as South Walton. "Locals have strived to maintain that historic character. We like the sandy, unpaved roads and the old oak trees that create a canopy over the homes." The designers kept the footprint of the cottage nearly the same, and built an addition onto the rear of the house to accommodate an airy great room. They also dreamed up a new "wine garden" in the back. (Check it out on page 34.) "One of the hallmarks of beach cottages is that the outdoors are just as important as the rooms inside," says Paige, an interior designer. (Mark, an urban designer, created the renovation's architectural design.) Here are 16 of our favorite ideas for updating a traditional beach cottage with smart, modern design.

**1. STRENGTHEN SIDING** The team replaced the original worn wooden siding with composite cement boards designed to mimic the appearance of wood. "It lasts much longer than real wood and requires less maintenance," says Horn, adding that it looks similar to materials used in old Seagrove houses.

**2. PLAY UP ORIGINAL DETAILS** Against the newly painted charcoal facade, the white geometric railings really pop. "The previous owner built them himself, modeled after railings he saw on a cottage in the Cayman Islands," says Mark. "They are unique to this house, and central to its character."



The dining porch now connects to the family room through new French doors.



Mildew-resistant draperies tied with rope block rain and sun, and add privacy.



**3. PROTECT THE PORCH**

Horn insulated the ceilings on the veranda with rigid foam board. "It's a less protective type of insulation than what you would use indoors, but it's all you need to prevent the sun's heat from transferring through the porch roof," he says.

**4. REPLACE WINDOWS WITH GLASS DOORS**

The deep porch overhang limits sunlight in adjacent rooms, so the team replaced windows with impact-resistant glass-front French doors by Integrity. Now, additional light brightens the rooms and provides a seamless transition from indoors to outside. ▶

The porch base is painted Kendall Charcoal, the floor is painted Chelsea Gray, and the ceiling is painted Cloud Cover, all by Benjamin Moore. The furniture is by Lloyd Flanders, and the fabrics and throw are by Sunbrella. The windows and doors are by Integrity. The sunglasses are by Costa.