

styleathome

SPECIAL ISSUE

# cottage *style*

FRESH  
LOOKS FOR  
*easy living*



# ON THE WATERFRONT



Clean lines and a muted palette give a bright and airy West Coast cottage home a modern twist.

TEXT RHEA SEYMOUR | PHOTOGRAPHY BARRY CALHOUN



Millwork lends character to the lofty master bedroom, which opens to one of two decks. Subtle textures and patterns in layered neutrals give the room its soothing quality. The crystals on the iron chandelier add just a touch of shimmer, while the delicate nature of the fixture doesn't detract from the view.

**DESIGN**, Kelly Deck Design, [kellydeck.com](http://kellydeck.com);  
**ARCHITECTURE**, Sunshine Coast Home Design, [sunshinecoasthomedesign.com](http://sunshinecoasthomedesign.com); **CONTRACTING**, A.T. Home Construction, 604-886-3538.

MODERN COLOUR  
Fossil Dust CLW  
1043W, General  
Paint, [general-paint.com](http://general-paint.com).

Topped with dramatic Statuario marble, the generous kitchen island is an ideal hub for entertaining. "The pendant lights above the island have a real nautical feel and reference seaside living," says interior designer Nicole Mah of Kelly Deck Design. Metal stools are easy to clean and well-suited to wet bathing suits.



Exposed legs make the island feel like a free-standing piece of furniture.



Rustic usually rules when it comes to cottage design. But this oceanfront home atop a bluff on the Sunshine Coast, 40 minutes north of Vancouver by ferry, isn't even a little bit country. The owners, a Canadian family of four that lives in Bermuda year-round and spends summers and spring breaks here, had a more modern look in mind when they were ready to tear down the original structure to build their dream cottage three years ago. "They wanted a sophisticated space with classic, timeless elements and entertaining areas inside and out," says Nicole Mah, an interior designer at Kelly Deck Design in Vancouver.

With a little inspiration from the Hamptons beach house featured in the movie *Something's Gotta Give*, architect Walter Powell of Sunshine Coast Home Design created a stunning 4,500-square-foot four-bedroom cottage with a cedar-shingle exterior and a grand entryway that opens to a vaulted ceiling with a galleria. Walls of windows and French doors leading to a wraparound deck create a bright, airy interior that unites the indoor and outdoor spaces and accentuates the sweeping ocean views. The owners chose to forgo a dining room to keep the space casual but have plenty of seating for guests in the eat-in area in the kitchen, which features a wall-to-wall upholstered banquette for comfortable entertaining.

**ABOVE, LEFT** Counter and shelf accessories were carefully chosen for their soft pastel colours and whimsical shapes.

**ABOVE, RIGHT** The exterior is clad in cedar shingles with a warm grey wash to make them look weathered. Clear cedar on the master deck resembles the interior oak floors and offers a seamless transition from indoors to out.

To stay true to the cottage feel, the designer incorporated tongue-and-groove beadboard ceilings and walls, and false beams. “These architectural details add character, but they have clean lines and are painted white so the effect is restrained,” says Nicole. The owners also opted for white cabinetry and furnishings throughout. “It’s a fresh, modern take on cottage living,” she adds. Hand-scraped European white oak floors and grass-weave shades were installed to inject some warmth. “We didn’t want the space to feel clinical.”

When it came to the accessories, Nicole took her cues from the island of Bermuda. “One of the owners collects sea glass on the beach with her two young daughters and she sent me a little container of it when we started the project,” says Nicole. Those pastel sea glass hues pop up in the graphic toss cushion fabrics, abstract art and decorative accents, imparting a sense of playfulness and freshness to the space, which the family christened Sea Glass Cottage.

With the owners living across the continent during the two-year construction, the finished project was totally turnkey. “We sourced everything, from the glasses and flatware to the books on the girls’ shelves,” says Nicole. “Those personal touches really helped the family connect with the home.” So when it was time for the big reveal last year, the owners were quite emotional. “They were extremely happy,” Nicole says. “When you walk inside Sea Glass Cottage, it really has a magical quality.”



Three sets of French doors with transom windows keep the focus on the spectacular ocean view from the living room. The oversized reclaimed-oak coffee table is a perfect spot for playing board games and entertaining friends. “It has a forgiving finish

and it’s low so it doesn’t command too much of the space,” says Nicole. Slipcovered sofas, which are both practical and comfortable, are dressed up with splashes of soft blue and seafoam green – the only hues in the otherwise white room.

The square plinth-style coffee table is made from reclaimed Russian oak.

A two-tiered chandelier with vintage flair draws the eye to the vaulted ceiling in the grand upstairs gallery. The tongue-and-groove beadboard ceiling and built-in shelves create visual interest. A wall of family photographs lends a gallery effect.



The handrail was left unpainted to tie in with the floors.



Framed artwork gives scale to this pretty vignette in the master bath.



Tall wainscoting in the foyer adds streamlined character. "We had fun adding in sweet accessories like the light turquoise umbrella stand," says Nicole.



With marble mosaic tiles on the floor, ceramic tiles on the wall and a quartz counter on the vanity, the girls' bathroom is fresh and functional. Beachy accents provide contrast to the crisp white.



The daughters' bedroom features two custom-built bunk beds and armoires (not shown). The teal velvet chair with tapered legs lends a sleek Scandinavian quality. The cotton rug was chosen for its pretty hot pink colour and durability. "The owner didn't want anything too plush or fussy," says Nicole.