

# our best **makeovers** COASTAL LIVING

## BEACH HOUSE STYLE SECRETS

Hundreds of decorating ideas, tips, and tricks

This bedroom was once a porch!

see the "before" →



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COASTAL LIVING POCKETS

**EASY UPDATES!**

Our favorite casual, coastal looks for every room

*creative solutions for*  
**decorating on a deadline**

This South Carolina cottage needed more color and style on the double if it was going to make the most of its waterfront perch



**THE PROBLEM** The house needed personality and updates to make it worthy of its Charleston Harbor site.

**THE SOLUTION** A super-quick restyle! The homeowners were hosting a wedding just 10 weeks after the process began.

## exterior

The 1915 Victorian summer cottage received a cleanup with fresh white paint, new shutters, and a copper roof. Rebuilding the eroding bluff and then adding mature boxwoods and azalea shrubs and trees helped create a lush—and instantaneous!—Southern garden.

we love...

**BUTTED BOARD.** It covers what were once bare plaster walls to give the dining room more character.

**THOSE GREEN DINING CHAIRS!** The designer brought lumpy black chairs back to life by re-covering them in apple green.



## porch

It's all about simplicity and comfort on the porch, where the view takes center stage. Painted floors, rattan furniture, and a sea grass rug keep things beachy. A vintage fishing net from an antiques consignment store becomes art in the open-air space.

## living room

The house was stripped down to the studs, but there were no structural changes. That meant that the details—beaded board-clad walls, crisp white paint, carefully chosen antiques, and furnishings that appeal to the family's laid-back lifestyle—were key.



### *project details*

**WHAT THEY KEPT** The original layout of the house, but with some modern touches.

**WHAT THEY SALVAGED** Plaster walls in the kitchen, living, and dining areas were covered with beaded and butted board. When the floor stain didn't match the rest of the house, the designer painted the kitchen floors a saturated green that coordinates with the green upholstery and draperies throughout the rest of the first floor.

**WHAT THEY SCRAPPED** Everything that felt old, dark, or too formal.

we love...

WHITE COTTON SLIPCOVERS. They're a relaxed counterpoint to the sumptuous draperies, throw, and accent pillows, and the buttoned-up dining area beyond.





WHEN THEY DIDN'T MATCH THE REST OF THE HOUSE, THE DESIGNER HAD THE KITCHEN FLOORS PAINTED A GLOSSY GREEN—A QUICK CHANGE WITH LONG-LASTING STYLE



## PAINT IT COASTAL!

A palette inspired by these rooms



Shoreline Blue (VM123) by Ralph Lauren Paint



Birch Leaf (20-10) by Pratt & Lambert



## we love...

### **BOLD, OVERSIZE ARTWORK.**

In the kitchen (opposite), its dark tones break up an expanse of white walls, while its dimensions help balance the stainless steel range hood.

### **DEEP, APRON-FRONT SINKS.**

They make cleaning up after a crowd a breeze, a welcome function in a house designed for entertaining. Soaking big pots and pans—no problem.

### **TRANSOMS OVER DOORWAYS.**

They're a small architectural detail, but they bring big light into the rooms.

## kitchen

The homeowners installed vintage-inspired beaded board, new countertops, and new cabinetry and hardware. Halfway through the makeover, they changed course and opted to nix the cabinet doors under the sink in favor of a green ticking skirt (above).

## dining room

Coastal accents—grass baskets, pieces of coral, and maps of Charleston Harbor—give the house a sense of place and reflect Mount Pleasant's beach-loving vibe. Though the kitchen and dining spaces are distinct, white walls and trim make the look seamless. Carrying a green accent color through both rooms—the chairs, the glassware, and fabrics—keeps things simple.





## master bedroom

The soothing blue palette is a departure from the rest of the home's green-and-white color scheme. The homeowners got the look of an expensive, old-world painting with an antique Zuber wallpaper piece mounted in acrylic (above).

### *the quick list*

#### THEN

Plaster walls in the dining and living rooms

Black upholstery in the dining room that had a worn, linty look

Dark wood floors and outdated cabinetry in the kitchen

An eroded bluff outside and a needed paint job

#### NOW

Butted board with much more character

Green print and solid upholstery to kick up the room's sense of style

Green porch paint on the floor and new cabinets and countertops

Fresh color on the siding and a built-up bluff that helps the house sit right in the setting



