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CONTENTS

6 PERFECT PAINT PICKS
Cottage style colours that reflect nature and encourage rest and relaxation

CHAPTER 1 whites

10 10 SIMPLE TRICKS
Woven textures and distressed finishes make these spaces come alive

16 WINNING FORMULAS
This cottage style requires simplicity and restraint, yet plenty of soul

24 PRETTY, PALE & PATINATED
Jillian Harris designs her dream home from scratch – and from a distance

32 STYLISH STATEMENT
Showcasing only three plants, this container puts on a spectacular show

CHAPTER 2 pastels

36 10 SIMPLE TRICKS
Pastels feel right at home in both country and contemporary interiors

42 WINNING FORMULAS
These cottagey rooms prove a pale palette can feel fine and fresh

50 CLASSIC, COZY & CAREFREE
An island escape where the design is full of character and the views are fantastic

58 SOPHISTICATED SETTING
Showy blooms in a simple container let the plantings take centre stage

CHAPTER 3 brights

62 10 SIMPLE TRICKS
Learn how to incorporate a bright colour scheme without going overboard

68 WINNING FORMULAS
These classic cottage style interiors get the colourful mix just right

76 BRIGHT, BOLD & BLISSFUL
A classic modern beach house blossoms into the perfect place for a young family

84 CAPTIVATING COMPOSITION
This colourful outdoor display features a hot-weather symphony of plantings

86 TOWELLING OFF
Crafty DIYs using ever-so-versatile hammam towels

90 MAKE IT EASY
Three practical projects to bring cottage style into your home

96 DECORATING IDEAS TO STEAL
Our favourite Instagram posts chock full of cottage style inspiration

98 STYLE INSPIRATION
Get the look of this freshly decorated traditional sunroom

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
Stacey Brandford

COVER INTERIOR DESIGN
Lynne Knowlton
YOU DON’T NEED TO LIVE deep in the woods or by the sea to have a love affair with cottage style. Wherever you call home, there are many ways to incorporate the look and make it your own. Sure, there are recognizable hallmarks (think: slipcovered sofas and painted furniture), but what it comes down to is the lifestyle – being carefree and comfortable, enjoying the company of loved ones in soothing surroundings and ensuring nothing’s too precious. It’s about being you. That’s the beauty of this aesthetic and the reason for its universal appeal. So no matter what your decorating personality is (Do you gravitate toward all-white interiors? Fancy the calming effect of pastels? Maybe punches of primary hues are your thing?), our special Cottage Style issue has something for you. All you need to do is kick back and get ready to be inspired!
COTTAGE COLOURS

PERFECT
paint picks

1
2
3
6
7
8
11
12
13
Cottage living is all about escaping the everyday, reconnecting with nature and enjoying quiet moments. So it makes sense that oft-used cottage style colours – from soothing sky blue to peaceful pebble grey – reflect these sentiments. Here, we present a few our favourites.
There’s a reason why white is the go-to cottage style colour: it’s fresh and clean – and plays well with others. Whether you like cool shades or warm tones, this monochromatic scheme is the obvious choice for rooms in which you want it to feel like summer all year long.
10

10 Simple Tricks
Combining warm woods and woven textures with distressed finishes and simple details makes all-white spaces come alive.

16

Winning Formulas
White, light and airy – a timeless cottage aesthetic that requires simplicity and restraint yet, at the same time, plenty of soul.

24

Pretty, Pale & Patinated
How designer and TV personality Jillian Harris designed her dream home from scratch – and from a distance.

32

Stylish Statement
Showcasing only three plants, this all-white sky-high arrangement puts on a spectacular show.
Combining warm woods and woven textures with distressed finishes and simple details makes all-white spaces come alive. Read on to get inspired.

1. STEP BACK
Embrace the old! Instead of making beat-up surfaces look like new again, try enhancing their patina. Here, worn wooden stairs were given a milky white wash to pleasing effect.
SAME DIFFERENCE

Use a monochromatic palette to give tabletop displays a pulled-together look. It’s the perfect way to make a grouping of disparate items feel collected and cohesive.
BRANCH OUT
Literally bring the outdoors in with a towering leafy branch centrepiece. Its simplicity and scale make a strong sculptural statement, especially when set against a light and airy backdrop.
4
NEW LIFE
Revitalize seen-better-days furnishings with fresh white paint. To lend pieces that well-loved cottagey feel, lightly rub the edges with fine-grit sandpaper after painting.

5
BENCH WARMER
Use a garden bench as an indoor perch for gazing out the window. This one seamlessly blends into its surroundings, so your focus stays on the picturesque view.

6
ROLLING STONES
Display pretty pebbles – their natural appeal has the power to turn your coffee table styling from basic to beautiful.
7
**SLEEP WELL**
Elevate plain white bedding with a show-stopping bed frame made of shipping pallets. It’s budget-friendly, plus it exudes a laid-back vibe that makes you want to jump right in.

8
**CHARACTER BUILDING**
Scour flea markets for fun finds to imbue a blank slate with much-needed personality.

9
**BED REST**
Make beds look inviting by layering linens that are big on texture, such as quilted coverlets and woven blankets, in varying white tones.
TRUE REFLECTION
Place mirrors in the kitchen for a decorator’s touch. These rope-hung versions not only help bounce light around the room but also reinforce the casual cottagey look.
COTTAGE LOOKS

WINNING FORMULAS

White, light and airy – a timeless cottage aesthetic that requires simplicity and restraint yet, at the same time, plenty of soul. Here’s how to make it work.

WINNING FORMULAS

- Classic Wainscoting
- Standout Hook Rack
- Time-Worn Bench

= WELCOMING ENTRYWAY

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH; DESIGN, CROMA DESIGN
Wall-to-Wall Windows + Spindle-Back Chairs + Casual Table Setting = RELAXED DINING AREA

Twig Chandelier + Tree Trunk Side Tables + Dove Grey Touches = MELLOW SUNROOM

Open Shelving + Apron-Front Sink + Traditional Bridge Faucet = HOMEY KITCHEN

Oversized Checked Wallpaper + Black Metal Shower Enclosure + Trough Sink = REFINED COUNTRY BATH
Layers of Linen and Lace + Caned Bed Frame + Dainty Chandelier = DREAMY BEDROOM
Patinated Clawfoot Tub + Ticking Stripe Fabrics + Hexagonal Floor Tiles = BREEZY BATHROOM
Clean-Lined Chandelier
+ Turned-Leg Table
+ Fresh Cuttings
= OLD-MEETS-NEW DINING ROOM
Ornate Mirror + Distressed Coffee Table + Louis XV-Style Bench = ECLECTIC LIVING ROOM

Beadboard Cathedral Ceiling + Modern Light Fixtures + Quirky Framed Print = RESTFUL HAVEN

Antique Armoire + Rough-Hewn Wood + Painted Floors = LIGHT-FILLED LOFT CABIN

Subway Tile Wainscotting + Polished Nickel Fixtures + Flea Market Finds = VINTAGE BATHROOM
High-Gloss Cabinets + X-Back Stools + Vintage Foodie Prints = COZY COOKING QUARTERS
Dutch Door + Floor-to-Ceiling Subway Tiles + Jute Runner = TIMELESS KITCHEN
inspired palette
Low-key yet sophisticated with a hint of rustic patina.

1 Upward SW 6239 PAINT, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com; 2 Kerry Joyce Textiles Caravan linen Java Stripe 1036-02 FABRIC in Alsace Blue on Oyster, through designers, Primavera, primavera.ca; 3 Mulberry Home linen blend Meadow Linen FABRIC in Soft Blue; 4 Thom Filicia linen Griffith FABRIC in Sky; 5 Lee Jofa Raoul Duffy Christopher Farr Cloth linen Armature Feuilles FABRIC in Pale Blue, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com; 6 Soleil Bleu embroidered linen Romancier FABRIC in O90, through designers, Primavera, primavera.ca; 7 Beauti-Tone White Lightning D4-7-0187-0 PAINT, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca; 8 Brunschwig & Fils linen Talavera Linen FABRIC in Birch; 9 Kravet Couture embroidered linen Spot On FABRIC, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com.

PRODUCER, MORGAN LINDSAY (PALETTE); PHOTOGRAPHY, ASHLEY CAPP
How designer and TV personality Jillian Harris designed her dream home from scratch – and from a distance.

TEXT KATIE HAYDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY
In pictures, Jillian Harris’s newly renovated West Kelowna, B.C., home is idyllic. The bright beachy rooms are washed in soft white, cream and the palest blue. You can almost feel the balmy Okanagan breeze that blows in through the wall of French doors, which open to the deck that overlooks her one-acre property, the pool and, in the distance, hills dotted with vineyards and orchards.

In everyday life, the house – which Jillian shares with partner Justin Pasutto, two-year-old son Leo, seven-month-old daughter Annie and boxer pooches Nacho Cilantro and Peaches – is as down-to-earth and quirky as the designer and TV personality herself. Jillian won’t let you buy into the picture-perfect facade for a second. “At one point, the living room coffee table had painter’s tape all over it,” she says with a laugh. “I had taped skewers on it because Leo loved to drive his little cars over the ‘speed bumps.’”

In some ways, the 10-month renovation of the 3,500-square-foot 1970s-era house was just as far from what you’d expect. It’s been finished for more than a year now (savvy readers will note that the master suite made the cover of our September 2018 issue), and Jillian is still amazed it came together. “I was so busy driving back and forth to Vancouver to film Jillian and Justin and Love It or List It – all while taking care of a new baby,” she says. “I was flying by the seat of my pants – I didn’t go to a single showroom. I designed the whole place by having samples sent to me. I remember thinking, ‘This isn’t the way I want to do it.’ I wanted to take my time, but it didn’t turn out that way.”
“THIS ENTRANCE IS MAINLY FOR GUESTS, SO IT ISN’T LADEN WITH OUR OWN THINGS.”

LEFT & TOP LEFT Tall built-ins flanking the fireplace let homeowner and designer Jillian Harris (pictured above, with Nacho Cilantro the boxer) display collectibles that help define and personalize her look. “The built-ins were a simple design, and then cabinetry designer Clarice Maidment added the pretty arched details,” she says. The units also help Jillian maintain that carefree aesthetic amid the chaos of family life. “All of Leo’s toys and books are stored in the cupboards so tidying up is a breeze,” she says.
The dining room is filled with light thanks to French doors along one wall. Paired with flowing drapery and traditional wainscoting, they lend historic flavour to the newly renovated space. The arresting light fixture draws the eye up to the spectacular ceiling beams and adds a hint of glimmer to the room. Avid entertainers, Jillian and her partner, Justin Pasutto, installed a bar equipped with beverage drawers, wine fridges and cupboards to store all of their serveware.

An eight-burner gas range makes whipping up meals a snap. A white finish gives the hood a low-key presence that suits Jillian’s summer-in-all-seasons aesthetic. Her other kitchen secrets? Opt for drawers over cupboards ("they make everything ultra functional"); integrate appliances, always ("it makes a kitchen look cleaner and bigger"); and incorporate lots of windows (to let in ample natural light).

With its quaint oval window, nostalgic schoolhouse pendant lights, shiplap wall panelling and star-patterned cement floor tiles, the pantry is super pretty and organized to boot – Jillian spent hours measuring cans, jars and cereal boxes to make sure everything fit just right.
Jillian created a cheery family-friendly kitchen with panelled cabinets, a huge island (where the family eats most meals) and a big farmhouse sink under a window overlooking the yard. “The window folds open to a little outside bar where the kids can sit on stools and have a snack while taking a break from the pool,” she says. The designer splurged on things like the range, Caesarstone countertops and a built-in espresso maker but tempered her spending with pieces such as big-box stools and dining chairs, as well as surprisingly affordable cabinetry from a local maker.
The dramatic reno involved blowing out walls to open up the living room, dining room and kitchen located on the split-level’s upper floor. “It was basically one big blank slate,” says Jillian, who treated said slate with a palette of pale hues featuring pops of blue, gold and pink, and warmed it up with wide-plank driftwood-look floors and huge reclaimed barn beams. “Justin really wanted them,” explains the designer, “and I’m so happy he pushed for them – they look so good.” A new fireplace with a bold mantel and herringbone-brick interior acts as the focal point of this great room, with additional interest injected via architectural elements like wainscotting and arched details on built-in bookcases. It’s the perfect envelope for her selection of low-key light-hued furnishings that impart a comfy relaxed vibe.

Jillian’s primary goal with the design of the home was to make sure it not only reflected her and Justin’s personal style, but that it could also handle the busy lifestyle of their growing family. With everything in place, it’s evident the cozy space can easily accommodate the Harris-Pasutto brood as well as the loads of family and friends who love to visit – and we think it’s safe to say who never want to leave either!
When paired with white walls, front doors the colour of sun-bleached denim set a beachy tone in the foyer. Jillian wrapped the space in traditional wainscoting to bring interest and coziness to the predominantly white palette.

**OPPOSITE** “Our living room is one of our favourite spaces,” says Jillian, who spared no expense with the room’s focal point: a gorgeous fireplace flanked by built-in bookcases.
stylish

STATEMENT

This show-stopping arrangement is achieved with only three plants. While masses of trailing white lobelia fill and spill, tall blue potato vine and spiky dracaena provide balance and texture to lift this display from so-so to spectacular.

STATEMENT

‘WHITE CHARLES’
BLUE POTATO VINE

COLOUR COMBO

CRISP WHITE + MELLOW YELLOW + SOFT GREEN = calm & collected

tip

If a vibrant palette isn’t your thing, opt for a mostly white arrangement. Create drama by experimenting with foliage and bloom shape, texture and tonality. And remember, sometimes less is more – too many different plants in one container can look messy.
Calming the mind and soothing the senses, delicate shades are perfectly suited to casual cottage living. And better yet, this peaceful palette works with just about any style, from relaxed and romantic to clean and contemporary.
10 Simple Tricks

The painterly and whimsical spirit of pastels feels right at home in both country and contemporary cottage interiors.

Winning Formulas

Pastels tend to read sweet and serene, but these cottagey rooms prove a pale palette can also feel fine and fresh.

Classic, Cozy & Carefree

An architect creates an island escape where the design is full of character, the vibe is laid-back and the ocean views are spectacular.

Sophisticated Setting

Pairing showy blooms with a simple container ensures the plantings remain the stars of the show in this pretty spring arrangement.
10 SIMPLE TRICKS

The painterly and whimsical spirit of pastels feels right at home in both country and contemporary cottage interiors. Here’s how to get the look and feel.

1.

NEW DIMENSION

Utilize unexpected elements like a Scandi-look bench and encaustic cement floor tiles in gentle hues to give a white space a warm lived-in feeling. The quiet style maker is the shiplap panelling, which drives the cottage aesthetic home.
HAPPY MARRIAGE
Combine smooth and rustic finishes with clean-lined and organic shapes to make a subdued setting sing. A single accent colour – such as petal pink or seafoam green – adds to the sophistication of this cottage style.
ON REPEAT
Bring life to an interior washed in white with hits of cool colour. Here, watery blues peppered throughout several rooms make everything feel effortlessly connected.
4 GOOD THINKING
Retrofit an antique cabinet into an attractive bathroom vanity in a few simple steps. Paint the exterior a soft shade (an imperfect finish adds to the charm) and top with a porcelain vessel sink.

5 ARTISTIC TALENT
Create one-of-a-kind art by applying big brush-strokes of pastel-hued paint to watercolour paper. The white frame and neutral vignette keep the focus on the glowing masterpiece.

6 SMALL WONDERS
Swap the formal floral centrepiece for several simple posies scattered along the table. The look reads cozy and casual, perfect for the cottage.
7

PICTURE PERFECT
Achieve a collected-over-the-years gallery wall look by combining thrifty finds, DIYs and heirlooms. Stick to a theme (such as florals and seascapes) or go as eclectic as you like, but keep things unified with similar shades.

8

FAIR PLAY
Keep a pale palette interesting by playing with pattern (think about scale and fine details). The result is soothing but not boring.

9

WILD THING
Decorate a bedside table with cuttings set in a vintage canning jar for an unassuming display. Pick blooms that complement the room’s colour scheme.
GREAT OUTDOORS

Look to nature for decor inspiration. This master bedroom’s mural of mountains in varying shades of blue has a lovely calming effect. Low-hung sconces and a low-profile bed don’t compete with the scenic treatment.
WINNING FORMULAS

Pastels tend to read sweet and serene, but these cottagey rooms prove a pale palette can also feel fine and fresh. Check out these perfectly balanced examples.

African Wall Baskets
+ Soft-Hued Seating
+ Encaustic Cement Floor Tiles
= SCANDI-INSPIRED EAT-IN AREA
White Walls + Antique Coral-Coloured Bed Frame + Rattan Pendant Light = YOUTHFUL BEDROOM

Board and Batten Walls + Log Coffee Table + Framed Botanical Prints = RUSTIC BUNKIE

Vintage-Look Cabinetry + Plate Rail + Black and White Checkered Floor = NOSTALGIC KITCHEN

Peachy Subway Tiles + Elegant Pedestal Sink + Mixed Metals = PRETTY POWDER ROOM
Reclaimed Wood Beams
+ Simple Daybed
+ Plush Toss Cushions
= QUAINt LOUNGING SPOT
Beaded Chandelier
+
Blush Pink Tufted Headboard
+
Frilly Linen Bedding
= ROMANTIC RETREAT
French Doors + Slipcovered Sofas + Seafoam Green Accents = FRESH LIVING ROOM
WHAT IS AVAXHOME?
Unlimited satisfaction one low price
Cheap constant access to piping hot media
Protect your downloadings from Big brother
Safer, than torrent-trackers
18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open https://avxlive.icu
Mint-Hued Vanity + Polka Dot Wallpaper + Delicate Pink Touches = **PLAYFUL BATHROOM**

Bi-Fold Shutters + Weathered Table + Distressed Bistro Chairs = **CHARACTER-FILLED DINING NOOK**

Floral Armchairs + Moroccan Pouffe + Linen Drapery = **FEMININE SITTING AREA**

Lilac and Saffron Combo + Mismatched Iron Bed Frames + Statement Rug = **ARTFUL GUEST ROOM**
Muted Mauve Walls
+
Textured Bedding
+
Vintage Bird Cage
=
WHIMSICAL BEDROOM
Floral Artwork + Raw Wood Demilune Console + Blooming Arrangement = AIRY ENTRYWAY
inspired palette
Casual, breezy and simple with a side of coastal charm.

1 Lee Jofa Cole & Son Contemporary Restyled Malabar WALLPAPER in 95/7041, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com; 2 linen Tuscany Linen FABRIC in Altpink, Tonic Living, tonicleiving.com; 3 polished Carrara marble herringbone TILES, Saltillo Imports, saltillo-tiles.com; 4 RIBBON, Mokuba, 416-504-5358; 5 Thom Filicia Griffith FABRIC in Fog, 6 linen Anak FABRIC in 11, 7 Barbara Barry linen Royal Maze FABRIC in Haze, 8 Lee Jofa Blithfield linen blend Colebrook FABRIC in Blue/Natural, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com.
An architect creates an island escape where the design is full of character, the vibe is laid-back and the ocean views are spectacular.

TEXT LAURA MUIR  |  PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY  |  STYLING CARRIE MCCARTHY
low-pulse. “There couldn’t be a better way to describe this relaxed boat-access cottage in the spectacular setting of Keats Island in B.C. The person who coined the term is homeowner and architect Jim Bussey, whose playful approach and creative point of view were key to building such a charming and convivial space. “There’s a very low-pulse atmosphere here,” reiterates Jim, owner and president of the Vancouver architectural firm Formwerks, who purchased the empty heavily treed lot five years ago. “I wanted to create something that was friendly, homey, inviting and very relaxing. But I didn’t want to have a place that was schlumpy or dumpy. I wanted it to be classic and chic, yet extremely comfortable.”

When working with clients, the Formwerks team prides itself on truly listening to homeowners’ wants and needs. So when it came to designing Jim’s own cottage, which he shares with his wife, Jenna, their five grown children and their beloved Yorkshire terrier, Chloe, he was cognizant of listening to himself. “I had to project myself onto a screen, so to speak,” Jim says. What he saw was inspiration from the past, present and future: spending childhood days at his parents’ cottage in Ontario; enjoying time with his Keats Island neighbours (when this lot came on the market, he was specially invited to join the close-knit enclave of six properties); and creating a place for hosting business get-togethers, as well as relaxing with a good book. “If you compile notions of past experiences and future desires, you get a backdrop you can respond to,” he says.

It’s a creative process that, after six months of construction, resulted in a modern 1,200-square-foot structure that’s striking – obviously the home of an architect – but simple and not overbearing. “I didn’t
Above Simple wall hooks by the deck door offer a convenient spot to hang bags and jackets. They also echo the relaxed vibe of this cottage, where everything is carefree and comfortable.

Left Accordion doors made from refurbished French doors open the cottage’s indoor dining area to an alfresco one on the deck.

“If you compile notions of past experiences and future desires, you get a backdrop you can respond to.”
The living area of this escape features interesting architectural elements like shiplap-clad walls, exposed ceiling beams and salvaged windows and doors (some about 100 years old).

**OPPOSITE** Reclaimed leaded glass windows used as cabinet fronts lend the kitchen distinctive interest and charming character. “My contractor said, ‘I’ve got these old windows lying around if you want to use them for your cabinetry,’” explains homeowner and architect Jim Bussey. “They happened to be this buttery yellow colour and I kept them that way to offset the stark white and the teal.”
want it to be an example of cold austere modern architecture. It had to have warmth and comfort built into it,” he says. Working with Jim to inject character was Jack Brown, Formwerks’s director of interior design. “We wanted a rustic cabin feel,” says Jack, “with nothing too polished or city-like.”

Achieving that rustic-chic balance meant combining an uncomplicated open floor plan, clean lines and a minimalistic sensibility with character-filled elements like shiplap wall panelling, exposed ceiling beams, wide-plank hardwood floors and salvaged windows and doors. “I was renovating a client’s 100-year-old house in Vancouver and all these doors and windows were coming out. So I thought I’d repurpose them and refresh their existing off-beat colours – buttery yellow and turquoise,” says Jim. (Serendipitously, Jim’s contractor also offered a set of old leaded glass windows in the same buttery hue that were used for the kitchen cabinetry.)

The bright colour scheme keeps things fresh and relaxed, while layers of soft elements and textiles add to the coziness. An eclectic mix of accents – a comfy sectional from a past project, artwork found at flea markets and colourful quilts picked up while on vacation – lends a laid-back vibe. But, perhaps most importantly, those pieces reflect Jim and his family. “It was really important to capture who they are,” says Jack. Mission accomplished.
A mid-century-style desk and a rustic stool are paired with a white-painted wrought-iron bed frame in the master bedroom, creating an eclectic mix. The desk provides a punch of blue, “so the room is not just a big white box, and it’s cohesive with the rest of the house,” says Jim.

The clothes storage in the master bedroom exemplifies Jim’s keep-it-simple attitude. “We really only need a few things when we’re here – a couple of nice outfits, bathing suits and old sweaters and jeans,” he says. “So we didn’t want a walk-in closet.” Vintage kantha quilts add pops of colour.

The vanity in the guest bathroom has the same beadboard door fronts as the lower kitchen cabinets, offering continuity. The turquoise window frames achieve the same effect.
“We wanted a rustic cabin feel with nothing too polished or city-like.”
sophisticated

SETTING

Pairing showy blooms with a simple container ensures the plantings remain the stars of the show. Pussy willow adds vertical interest, while happy hellebore, pretty primrose and fragrant thyme keep the display from looking sparse.

COLOUR COMBO

SPRING GREEN + PALE PURPLE + SILVERY GREY = soft & serene

tip

Select a container in a shape and style that suits your home. There are plenty of options – from fibreglass to plastic – to choose from. When you’re ready to plant, cover the container’s drainage holes with a piece of landscape fabric or old window screen so the soil doesn’t wash out.
Bold, lively, energetic – this scheme is not for the faint of heart, but it’s surprisingly easy to live with when done right. It’s all about limiting saturated shades and incorporating loads of white.
10 Simple Tricks

A bright colour scheme is a classic cottage style hallmark. But how much is too much hue? Learn how to use saturated shades without going overboard.

Winning Formulas

Think lake blue, leafy green, sunny yellow and Muskoka chair red set against an envelope of cloud white.

Bright, Bold & Blissful

After a rough start, a classic modern beach house blossoms into the perfect place for a young family to build happy memories.

Captivating Composition

In this colourful outdoor display, pinks and purples mingle with bright greens, creating a hot-weather symphony.
DISH DUTY
Hang mismatched dishes on a wall with wire plate hangers for an eye-catching display. Link together vintage finds, hand-me-downs and one-off splurges by palette and theme.

A bright colour scheme is a classic cottage style hallmark. But how much is too much hue? Learn how to use saturated shades without going overboard.
Punch up a quiet interior with a few choice accessories in a single bold hue. And if you happen to have an extra canoe paddle lying around, suspend it on a door for added interest.
GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY
Include a bright piece in a neutral space to give the eye a place to rest. In this white and charcoal bathroom, the yellow stool commands attention, while other accessories in gold tones provide context.
4

**BOOK SMART**
Place reading material in a convenient spot for easy access on lazy summer afternoons. And don’t stress about keeping books colour-coordinated or perfectly aligned – a casual arrangement suits cottage living.

---

5

**HOOKED UP**
Create quick inexpensive art by mounting fishing lures on colourful paper framed without glass. Arrange the works in a haphazard fashion to imbue a space with an easygoing vibe.

---

6

**IN PRINT**
Elevate a classically coastal blue and white palette with an elegant paisley print. The cozy chic pattern is forever stylish and suits any space, from bedroom to bathroom.
FINE ART
Give an heirloom quilt pride of place by showcasing it on a wall in a living area. Hung on its own, the treasured piece becomes not only a dramatic focal point but also instant artwork.

FUN TIMES
Opt for matching twin beds – instead of traditional bunk beds – in primary hues to set a playful tone. Take the look one step further with equally fun eclectic decor.

PIlLOW TALK
Use toss cushions as a way to incorporate splashy nautical motifs. The covers can easily be swapped out as the tide changes.
MIX MASTER
Mix natural materials, such as cane, wood and hide, with well-travelled pieces (like the Moroccan pouffe and vintage suzani shown here) to lend a simple cottage depth, dimension and a dose of colour.
WINNING FORMULAS

Think lake blue, leafy green, sunny yellow and Muskoka chair red set against an envelope of cloud white. Here’s how to get the colourful mix just right.

Red Front Door
+ Geometric Rugs
+ Tailored Millwork
= UNFORGETTABLE FOYER
High-Contrast Palette + Patterned Toss Cushions + Sleek Coffee Table = LIVELY LIVING ROOM

Cobalt Blue Walls + Crisp White Trim + Seaside Treasures = SPLASHY ENTRYWAY

Wishbone-Style Chairs + Simple Pedestal Table + Industrial Pendant Light = BRIGHT BREAKFAST NOOK

White, Yellow and Blue Bedding + Vintage Furniture + Jute Rug = PREPPY BEDROOM
Bold Baskets + Moroccan-Style Floor Tiles + Black Hardware = SNAZZY MUD ROOM
Blue Grasscloth Wallpaper
+ Seagrass Headboard
+ Sea Horse Artwork
= SOPHISTICATED SANCTUARY
Live-Edge Wood Table + Mismatched Chairs + Graphic Rug = EASYGOING DINING ROOM
Old-Fashioned Screen Door + Coloured Lanterns +
Birch Log Display = INVITING FRONT PORCH

Retro-Patterned Sofa + Gingham Drapery +
Antique Poster = CHEERY DEN

Glass Mosaic Backsplash + Farmhouse Sink +
Time-Worn Stools = CHARMING KITCHEN

Canadiana Artwork + Mid-Century-Style Chair +
Natural Coffee Table = UNIQUE LIVING SPACE
Layered Patterns
+
Four-Poster Bed
+
Chinoiserie Accents
=
EXOTIC BEDROOM
Wooden Chandelier
+
Peppy Green
Damask Armchairs
+
Faux Coral Elements
=
LAID-BACK LIVING ROOM
inspired palette
Fun and fresh with plenty of pattern play.

1 Gaston y Daniela polypropylene Eric FABRIC in Rojo, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com; 2 Bianco Carrara marble COUNTERTOP, York Marble, yorkmarble.com; 3 Waterworks acrylic Charter FABRIC in Admiral, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com; 4 Beauti-Tone Emily CC040-0 PAINT, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca; 5 Campaign large brass Chest Flush PULL, Lee Valley, leevalley.com; 6 Premium European white oak Sepia FLOORING in Brushed/Natural Oil, Moncer Specialty Flooring, moncer.com; 7 Shore Thing WALLPAPER in Navy, through designers, Thibaut at Kravet Canada, thibautdesign.com; 8 polished marble Oriental White hexagonal mosaic TILES, 1", Olympia Tile + Stone, olympiatile.com.
After a rough start, a classic modern beach house blossoms into the perfect place for a young family to build happy memories.

TEXT CHARLOTTE SAFAVI | PHOTOGRAPHY JACOB SNAVELY
When destructive Hurricane Sandy came barrelling up the eastern U.S. seaboard in 2012, a young family’s Bay Head, New Jersey, beach house suffered critical damage. The New York-based family had owned the dwelling for only one month – and had spent only two weekends there. They were devastated, but determined to return it to its former glory so they could start building new sun-kissed memories.

Enter a trusted resource with whom the family was already familiar: interior designer Susana Simonpietri of Chango & Co. She teamed up with contractors to reconstruct the beach house on a larger scale and transform it into a five-bedroom 2,118-square-foot raised bungalow-style retreat. “I’d worked with the family on their primary residence,” says Susana, “so I easily understood their mandate: They sought a comfortable getaway that felt relaxing, yet fun.”

It took one and a half years of hard work, wrestling with mould that had set in and dealing with insurance companies. But now, the quaint cottage-inspired architecture encompasses sloped ceilings, cozy bedrooms and an open-concept main living area that sets the scene for this casual coastal space that’s just a block away from the Atlantic Ocean.

To honour the seaside locale, a white-painted ship-lap envelope was enlivened by punchy nautical patterns and fresh bold hues – evidenced by the bright red lobster-patterned wallpaper in one of the bathrooms, the blue-painted front door and the vivid toss cushions in the guest rooms. “Throughout the house, we maintained a contemporary nautical look that focusses on a primary palette against a crisp white background, set off with shiny polished nickel fixtures and rope accents,” says Susana.

Natural materials, from the bleached-wood floors to the jute rugs to the woven baskets, temper the
In the breakfast nook of this seaside vacation home, light blue Tolix chairs boast contrasting dark blue seat cushions for a modern look. The comfy banquette wraps around a lacquered table and provides storage under the seat, while an adjacent built-in serves as a sideboard with even more space to stash stuff. Glass bubble chandeliers deliver an element of the unexpected.
Black soapstone countertops, stainless steel appliances and dark blue Tolix stools break up the all-white kitchen, while the globe pendant lights, striped runners and shiplap wall treatment feel both cottagey and coastal.
“Natural materials, from the bleached-wood floors to the jute rugs to the woven baskets, temper the bolder elements, warm up the space and make it feel like a place you can comfortably enter after a day at the beach.”
OPPOSITE & RIGHT With three comfy bunks, a whimsical rope-and-wood ladder and a gallery wall of playful prints, the kids’ bedroom is a chic place to host sleepovers and play dates. Bright and bold textiles patterned with waves and stripes make it clear that this is a children’s room while still echoing the home’s scheme.

BELOW Alongside rope-framed mirrors, vibrant red lobster-patterned wallpaper feels fun, young and unexpected, yet in line with this home’s modern nautical theme. Since this guest bathroom is also used by the kids, double sinks mean that they can brush their teeth before bed without competing for space.

bolder elements, warm up the space and make it feel like a place you can comfortably enter after a day at the beach. No room is off-limits – which is perfect for this family with two young daughters. “Jute and hardwood can withstand wear and tear (they look great as they weather), while shiplap is easy to wipe clean,” says Susana. “Sandy wet towels and sticky sun-screened fingers aren’t a problem.” Meanwhile, the furniture throughout is minimal and comfortable, with hard-wearing Sunbrella fabrics and washable slipcovers.

Determined to design a place that maximizes every square inch and is easy to keep shipshape, Susana incorporated lots of practical built-ins. These include an L-shaped banquette with storage space in the seat in the breakfast nook and a kitchen island with cupboards. And most functional of all is the mud room that runs the length of the entryway hall. It boasts hooks and cubbies for storing the family’s beach accessories, as well as benches with cushions in a durable material.

“Barefoot and carefree summer living is what we had in mind,” says Susana. And, in the decor, at least, the home’s hurricane-struck history is long forgotten and the path is open for new memories to be made.
Captivating Composition

A riot of pinks and purples in impatiens, petunias, begonias and geraniums creates a hot-weather symphony, while bright greens in creeping Jenny and sweet potato vine add notes of freshness.

COLOUR COMBO

hot & happy

RICH PURPLE + TANGY ORANGE + HOT PINK

Decide where you’d like to display your container first and then pick plants based on the location’s exposure – full sun, part shade or deep shade. The finished arrangement will be heavy to move, so fill the pot with soil and plants at your chosen spot.
TOWELLING Off

Chic hammam towels leave the bathroom behind to star in these crafty DIY accents all over the house.
With their soft weave, whimsical tassels and simple patterns, hamam towels are truly versatile – we’ve seen them used as everything from sarongs to picnic blankets. But what if they were transformed into pretty practical decorative pieces? Toronto home decor and fabric store Tonic Living puts five fresh spins on the bath time favourite, and the cottage chic results prove that, with a little imagination, hamams can become indispensable accessories for any room.

**Seating Arrangements**

Folded hamams are draped over a bit of foam padding on a pair of antique wooden chairs to create quick and easy seat cushions that are as stylish as they are useful. The fringes trail down to add a feminine touch.

**Beach Blanket Bingo**

A few stitches turn a hamam towel into a sweet retro bag – the towelling’s classic stripes are a match made for the beach. Plus, the fabric’s flat weave means it dries quickly, so books and snacks won’t suffer unduly from stray splashes and spray.
Pillow Talk

Simple toss cushion covers are formed by sewing up hammam towels, making sure the fringes are displayed on the outer edges. Experiment with different colours and patterns to suit your furniture and don’t be afraid to take them outside – towelling can weather a summer shower or two.

Soft, fast-drying and lightweight, hammam towels have become classic decorating pieces with myriad uses.

Curtain Call

Cupboard “doors” are effortlessly fashioned with hammams and tacks or wire to conceal unsightly under-counter items. The towels are available in a variety of sizes, and their lightweight construction means they hang nicely.
Liner Notes

Carefully fold a hammam to fit inside a basket or box and turn the sides over the top so that the fringes form a neat decorative edge. The treatment is ideal for transporting picnic fare to the park and back, as the absorbent fabric will handle any inadvertent spills.

Hammams 101

Long revered for their stylish blend of form and function, these flat-woven bathroom staples have a history dating back more than 600 years. Also known as *foutas* or *peshtemals*, hammam towels originated in Anatolia, Turkey, and were used as wraps in bathhouses (or *hammams*, hence the common name). They’re traditionally made with strong extra-long cotton fibres to give the fabric softness and durability, while the thin weave contributes to their lightweight composition. Because they’re less bulky – a hammam towel weighs about one-third of a standard terry version – they’re often used as scarves or throws. To keep a hammam at its best, don’t wash it with fabric softener or bleach, and allow it to air-dry.
make it easy

Three simple projects to bring practical cottage style into your home, wherever you live.

COTTAGE PROJECTS

The laundry symbols chart, a digital file purchased online and printed, is a helpful and stylish addition—a great example of utilitarian chic.
If lugging a clunky laundry hamper around the house isn’t your thing, you’re not alone. Luckily, this bag is easy to make – and carry!

**MATERIALS**
- Iron-on TRANSFER PAPER
- Inkjet PRINTER
- Printable LAUNDRY SYMBOLS CHART
- IRON
- Cotton PILLOWCASE
- MEASURING TAPE
- TAILOR’S CHALK
- SCISSORS
- Liquid SEAM SEALANT
- \( \frac{1}{2} \times 7’ \) ROPE
- ROPE CUTTERS
- TWINE

**HOW TO**

1. Following the transfer-paper manufacturer’s directions, print the laundry symbols chart onto the transfer paper. Iron the chart onto the front of the pillowcase, with the top of the chart parallel to the cuff.

2. Measure \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch from the right-side seam of the cuff, and use the tailor’s chalk to mark the fabric on each side, halfway between the top and bottom of the cuff. Cut through the outer layer of fabric to make a 1-inch vertical slit at each marked point. (These are the openings for the drawstring.)

3. Apply a small amount of the seam sealant along the cut edges to prevent fraying. Let dry.

4. Feed the rope through the cuff to make a drawstring; cut the rope to the desired length for hanging and carrying. Next, wrap a generous length of twine around each end; secure tightly to prevent them from unravelling.

**DIY #1 LAUNDRY BAG**

The pillowcase’s cuff serves as a sleeve for the drawstring rope. The light blue striped fabric adds more interest than plain white cotton.
Look for pieces with an intricate silhouette for a one-of-a-kind aesthetic.
OLD METAL GARDEN FURNITURE NEED NOT BE DESTINED FOR THE DUMP. WITH A LITTLE ELBOW GREASE, THESE CHARMING CHAIRS GET A NEW LEASE ON LIFE.

MATERIALS

• Steel-wool or wire BRUSH • Wrought-iron OUTDOOR FURNITURE • Heavy-duty DEGREASER (such as trisodium phosphate powder) • SPRAY PAINT

HOW TO

1 Using the brush, buff away any loose material, such as peeling paint, dirt and rust, from the furniture.

2 Wash the furniture thoroughly with water and, if it has oil stains, the degreaser.

3 Select a spray paint in the colour of your choice that’s meant for adhering to metal, featuring a built-in primer and rust protection. Paint the furniture. For long-lasting results, and to avoid drips and chips, spray a few light coats, allowing the paint to dry in between, instead of attempting a single thick coat.

4 Allow the new paint to cure as per the manufacturer’s instructions.

tip

Who says your newly refurbished patio pieces need to stay outdoors? Bring the vintage look inside on a rainy day for a garden-inspired party.

DIY #2
UPDATED CHAIR

BEFORE
For maximum impact, create multiple hangings and group them together.
DIY #3

NATURAL ART

Want the lushness of spring to grace your space year-round? Step outside and collect some foliage to create a pressed-leaf wall hanging or two.

MATERIALS

• LEAF CUTTINGS • PARCHMENT PAPER • Hardcover BOOK • HEAVY OBJECT • Double-glass floating FRAME • Double-sided TAPE

HOW TO

1
Sandwich a few leaf cuttings between a folded sheet of parchment paper. Repeat as required until all cuttings are used.

2
Insert the folded papers inside the book. Ensure that there’s at least ¼ inch of pages between pressings. Place the heavy object on top of the book; set aside. Check on the pressings after seven to 10 days; if they’re not fully dry, leave them for an additional week or two.

3
Arrange the pressings inside the frame. Secure each pressing with tape.

Think of this delicate verdant artwork as a collaboration with Mother Nature.

Borrow a few leaves from your favourite houseplants for this craft. Look for flat, thin varieties with low moisture content. Select leaves that are clean, dry and free of blemishes.
1. **Wonder Walls**
Shiplap-clad walls painted a soft minty hue give Jennifer Flores’s cottage bathroom a splash of coastal character. Go #teamshiplap!

@RAMBLINGRENO

2. **Stylish Surprise**
Every cottage needs a fun factor. In Michelle Shen’s Scandi-style sanctuary, it’s the loft space complete with ladder.

@AMDOLCEVITA

3. **Warm Welcome**
Equal parts pretty and practical, this dreamy mud room’s wallpaper and board and batten combo designed by Jacquelyn Clark is perfection.

@LARKANDLINEN

4. **Brilliant Bed**
A bunk bed updated with a lick of Cape Cod blue paint sets a playful nautical note in Tiffany Leigh’s homey beach house guest room.

@TIFFANYLEIGHDESIGN

5. **Quirky Quarters**
This bedroom’s classic cabin look feels fun and fresh thanks to Collective Studio’s modern design sensibility.

@COLLECTIVE.STUDIO

6. **Dazzling Display**
In Maria Carr’s home, a vignette boasting distressed finishes, farmhouse finds and petite blooms creates a captivating moment.

@DREAMYWHITESLIFESTYLE
Whether you’re decorating a small log cabin or designing a grand lakefront property, we all love some good design inspiration. And there’s no better place to find amazing ideas than on Instagram! Here are 12 of our favourite posts to help you bring your vision to fruition.

7 MASTERFUL MIX
Christine Dovey’s quaint PEI cottage has us swooning over its cozy combination of rustic, antique and contemporary decor.
@CORDIALHOUSE

8 POLISHED PAPER
The black and white ticking stripe wallpaper in this beauty of a bedroom designed by Jessica Waks ticks all the right boxes.
@JESSICAWAKS

9 LAYERED LOOK
Christine Hanlon’s eclectic style – a blend of modern and country with an unexpected twist – feels right at home in her century cottage.
@CHANLONPROPS

10 DELICIOUS DETAILS
Muskoka Living takes this cottage’s crisp white backdrop to the next level with a magical mix of complex millwork.
@MUSKOLA-LIVINGINTERIORS

11 WATER WORKS
The exposed copper plumbing in this rental property’s charming bathroom is definitely a trend we can get behind.
@THISOLDHUDSON

12 CASUAL CHARM
Open shelving, a farmhouse sink, rustic tiled floors – the features in this useful utility room have us wanting one just like it.
@DEVOLKITCHENS
We love decorator Michael Penney’s fresh twist on this traditional sunroom. Here’s how you can create a similar look in your own sunny space.

**INSPIRATION**

**OUTFIT THE ROOM WITH NATURAL MATERIALS, SUCH AS WOVEN GRASS, RAW WOOD AND STONE.**

**INCORPORATE A SELECTION OF POTTED PLANTS TO BRING THE OUTDOORS IN.**

**MIX A CLASSIC FLORAL PRINT WITH A MODERN GRAPHIC PATTERN IN COORDINATING COLOURS.**