



A Condo CONVERSION

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Layered details and whimsical
embellishments transform a waterfront
condominium into a cozy cottage.



Designer Taylor Brislawn

of TaylorMade Interiors mixed several design styles to create a dreamy beachside cottage. She used transitional design and coastal elements with a brief nod to the British West Indies. A serene color palette pulled from the surrounding beach brings harmony to this vacation home.

At first glance this looks like a simple, yet lovely, design using soft creams, whites and blues. However, upon closer examination, it becomes clear that this vacation home is anything but simple. "I stuck to an overall cohesive color scheme but mixed patterns in various scales and layered in items from the client's many art collections," Taylor explains.

She knocked down a few walls in the kitchen to provide the homeowners with an ocean view from the kitchen sink. She also reworked the footprint of the main bedroom and primary bathroom to afford more space and comfort.

LEFT| COME ON IN. The entryway is a very small space, so Taylor filled it with pretty things to provide a feeling of grandeur for an impressive first impression.

OPPOSITE, ABOVE| LAYERED LIVING. Taylor masterfully combined various types of furniture and décor to create a soothing space. "We set out to fill this space with quality yet practical pieces," she says.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM| OUTDOOR OASIS. "Outdoor living spaces, especially on the ocean, should be treated as an extension of interior living spaces," Taylor says. "Draperies, lamps and framed art, make this outdoor space feel like another room in the home."





LEFT ELEVATED DINING. The light above the dining table is a custom design. "It has a palm/grass motif and is lacquered royal blue with gold edges and details that match the edges of the wall sconces," Taylor explains. She chose the dining table because it is slightly beachy with an Old World vibe. **ABOVE, LEFT A LOVELY CORNER.** This little nook adds storage space to the living room and does so in style. "The shelves were made and stained to match the flooring," Taylor says. "They were styled using mostly the clients' own items from the collections of ceramics and books, with a few additions by me to add texture and height." **ABOVE, RIGHT GRAB A DRINK.** The homeowners requested a wet bar in the dining room and Taylor delivered with a chic design using cupboards, vertical storage and a wine rack to optimize space. The biggest perk is that guests can serve themselves, freeing up space in the tight kitchen.

The homeowners put full trust into the design process, allowing a truly one-of-a-kind home to emerge. Lots of textures, patterns, materials and shapes come together beautifully to create a welcoming home for different generations to gather.

UNIQUE PAIRINGS

Taylor worked hard to achieve a high level of visual interest in every room. "Mixing scales is very important to give the eye multiple places to land without being too busy," she says. Small, patterned wallpaper is paired with geometric rugs. Floral accents are offset by small geo-

metric patterns. A large, rectangular light pendant in the dining room is juxtaposed with small, intricate cutouts in the wine rack. The large wall of curtains on the patio is intriguing with the addition of a small piece of art.

Lots of patterns add interest without being chaotic. "I always start a scheme with a 'lead fabric,' which usually is a patterned fabric for pillows, then I pull coordinating items from there," Taylor says.

In addition to playing with scale and pattern, she used lots of different materials in an array of textures. Repeated textures of jute, wicker, grasscloth, mother of pearl and bamboo bring cohesion.



OCEAN DREAMS. Taylor proudly describes this primary bedroom as a tranquil haven. “The color palette of azure hues evokes seaside serenity, while the wavy-shaped headboard, scenic wallpaper, airy draperies, sinuous embroidery details, sunburst mirror and mother of pearl accents are all reminiscent of the sea, sun and sky,” she says.

TRANSITIONAL DESIGN AT THE BEACH

Transitional design is a combination of modern and traditional styles. The goal is to achieve a classic and timeless look with a modern feel. Taylor mixed luxury items with simple furnishings to get the look. Marble and acrylic hardware bring polish to simple Shaker cabinets, while rich gold accents glow against white shiplap ceilings and oak hardwood floors. Elegant, embroidered pillows rest upon performance fabrics to keep up with a busy lifestyle.

Another hallmark of transitional design is the use of a neutral base with a serene color palette. Taylor pulled heavily from the surrounding sand and surf using azure hues, sandy shades of taupe and crisp whites. Since the main bedroom has a view of the ocean, it is the lightest in color with more saturated blues and darker tones found as you move into other areas of the home.

Transitional design relies on texture and tone to create contrast instead of pops of color. The outdoor space serves as a perfect example with a wall of billowy curtains softening the hardened porcelain floors, metal rails and concrete walls. A nod to the British West Indies can be found in the use of chinoiserie, Chippendale seating, ginger jar lamps, faux bamboo, latticework and clawfoot details.

The homeowners proudly display their art collection curated from their travels on a gallery rail. These pictures can be rotated out and bring an element of international flare that pairs nicely with the West Indies look.

The homeowners are incredibly happy that they gave their designer carte blanche with their vacation condominium. “The result is a layered haven for family to enjoy,” Taylor says. [CB](#)

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 113



Any Home Can Be a *Cozy Cottage*

These easy tips from designer Taylor Brislawn will make any home feel like a cozy cottage.

- **Opt for Wood.** Taylor recommends using wood floors that feel worn in and cozy. “Lots of people would be tempted in an ocean setting to use tile, but I love the warmth of the wood,” she says. Choosing a bleached wood or one with color variations in a lighter tone will give the illusion of aged floors.
- **All the Trimmings.** Using detailed trims can increase the character in any home. “Shiplap or board-and-batten are reminiscent of the Craftsman style you would see in a cottage,” Taylor says.
- **Go for Jute.** Natural fibers such as jute bring immediate warmth to any space. Using jute rugs in a beachy cottage can be a fun nod to the tropics as well. “Jute rugs come from a plant fiber native to India, where the first bungalows were found,” Taylor says.



BE OUR GUEST. Since this is a vacation home, Taylor wanted both guest bedrooms to match. “I wanted the guest rooms to feel equal to one another,” she says. “If the owners had two other couples visiting, I didn’t want anyone to feel like they were getting the lesser room. The rooms are mirror images of one another, so we kept the layouts the same with queen beds, two night tables and a bench.”



BEACHY ELEGANCE. The guest bedroom and guest bathroom showcase Taylor’s use of pattern, color and texture. “The clients are overall pretty traditional, so I used florals as accents and small geometrics to offset them,” she says. The designer added even more interest by juxtaposing soft, whimsical wallpaper with gold-hued fixtures in the guest bathroom. The overall look is beachy and elegant.