

THE COASTAL COTTAGE

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REFINED COMFORT



The influences of Swedish Classicism and traditional American wooden seaside vacation homes combine to give an uplifting elegance to a livable cottage home.

The combination of classical elements and a greater attention to architectural detailing with traditional early cottage building materials and colors combine to bring a refined accessibility to this three-level Seaside, Florida, cottage. The architect describes it as a balance of naiveté and sophistication, and two design influences mingle and can be seen throughout: 1930s Swedish Classicism and vernacular turn-of-the-century wooden American seaside resort houses.

Classic pillars give even an informal space an ageless dignity. The dune with natural vegetation seen beyond the railing separates the home from the beach and protects the home from the severe storms and surges that occasionally pound the beaches.



ABOVE: The living area sets a nautical theme, and the colorful scaled toy model of a sailing vessel reinforces it. OPPOSITE: A charming dining area is kept simple by a bare floor, painted furniture, and the ship lantern as a hanging pendant light. The cutout on the right is a pass-through to the galley kitchen.

The Dutch door (allows breezes through the top while keeping the dog inside) opens directly to the living area, where a comfortable sofa and rattan chairs are nestled by a wood-burning stove. The nautical theme appears in the playful red, white, and blue artwork, and the same hues reappear in the area rug accented with boats, the cabinet enclosing the television, the stripes of the chair cushions, and the accent pillows. An interesting touch is the wainscoting, which appears in the living room and continues throughout the cottage: in contrast to the tidy white walls, ceiling, and trim that have a shipshape look, the wainscoting appears as if it were reclaimed wood with scraped white paint for a sense of age.



ABOVE: French doors open between the master bedroom and the patio.



The girls' bedroom rethinks closet storage for small children. By removing the closet doors, there is room in one closet for a handsome armoire and in the other a nook for a striped chest of drawers. Over time, when a closet is needed, the doors can easily be returned.



UPPER LEFT: Walking down the pathway from the front door one can sink in a view of where the beach curves inland from the point. LEFT: A nook by the front entry provides convenient storage for hats, jackets, and beach gear.

In the sitting room, the row of paned glass windows captures the views in a panorama. With the furnishings clustered in a conversation grouping near the stove the room feels cozy, but at the same time the height of the rooms adds a sense of being open and unconfined. The Whidbey Island architect who designed the cottage is known for capturing the utmost in natural light, and here he vaulted the ceiling to the rafters. A horizontal board continues the line of the upper window frames and lowers the scale of the room to compensate for the high ceiling.



OPPOSITE: The dining area's colorful and etched pendant bowl light, the artwork, and the details on the sideboard all add to the ornateness of the setting. ABOVE: The French doors in the main living area open to the covered porch sitting room off the master bedroom.