



OPPOSITE: The Stefanis' home on the northern Oregon coast is just a short bike ride from the beach, an ice cream shop, and the antiques store where they found furnishings for their beach house.

bright living

A welcoming beach retreat lets a homeowner relive fond childhood memories and create new ones with her family.

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Riding bikes to the local

ice cream shop, strolling along the beach, and making s'mores by a fire are some of Paige Stefani's favorite memories of childhood summers spent in a small Oregon beach community near the Columbia River. So when she married three years ago, she was happy to share a beachside retreat with husband Ron and her step-daughters. "We rented a friend's house for the summer," Ron says. "My daughter Sidney and I were walking by an antiques store that has signs on the window of homes for sale. My daughter said, 'Dad, I like this one.' We went to look at it and loved it. We bought it the next day."

The 1,300-square-foot cottage was full of charm but needed major changes to become the retreat the Stefanis craved. Wood paneling, red brick-look linoleum, and a Gothic iron chandelier with orange lightbulbs didn't create the relaxing escape the family envisioned.

To make their vision a reality, Paige enlisted the help of friend and interior designer Heidi Semler. "I wanted to lighten the space as much as possible," Semler says. "The first step was to whitewash everything, even the insides of the closets." Next up—lighting. Track lighting throughout the home brightens the spaces even more, and a nine-light chandelier and several sconces in the living room add drama as well as brightness.

Semler wanted the cottage decor to pay tribute to the beach community. Artwork from a local artist adorns the living room walls and blends in perfectly with the home's blue-gray color palette, while furnishings created by a local ironworks studio grace the master bedroom.

Most important, the family needed a home with carefree style so they could put up their feet and relax after a day of frolicking. Wall-to-wall sea-grass floor coverings lighten the rooms and add durable texture. Sofas in the adjoining living spaces are slipcovered, and wicker love seats are upholstered in indoor-outdoor fabric. In the kitchen, a large farmhouse table and six chairs are painted pale blue-gray and distressed for charm and durability.

"We love everything about the beach house," Paige says. "We can garden, sit outside at night, and make s'mores on the fire pit." And Paige can re-create her favorite childhood memories for her own family. "It's the coziest place," she says.

Whitewashed wood paneling and sea-grass floor covering lighten the living room. Designer Heidi Semler added shutters, wicker furniture, and gingham draperies to give the room beachy style, while whimsical accents, such as a giraffe-print ottoman and monogrammed pillows, add personality.





ABOVE: Whitewashed pine kitchen cabinets with the upper doors removed display Paige Stefani's vintage ironstone collection and everyday dishes. BELOW: A new outdoor living space surfaced with pea gravel and concrete slabs features a seating area with teak love seats and chairs. OPPOSITE: A 60-inch-diameter table accommodates friends and family in the dining space off the kitchen. Vintage canning jars and tableware bring the colors of the beach indoors.





TOP LEFT: A painted armoire in this living area houses the television. Wicker accents add texture to the space, while pillows made from indoor-outdoor fabric give the room a casual, durable elegance. TOP RIGHT: In the master bedroom, teal accents bring in the colors of the nearby ocean. The side table and mirror are finds from a local antiques shop. ABOVE: Paintings by local artist Diane Speakman mirror the home's color palette. Blue-gray fabrics cover the seating in both living areas, and draperies soften the transition between rooms. OPPOSITE: An antique iron bed and toile pillows add charm to a second bedroom. White accessories brighten the space.

