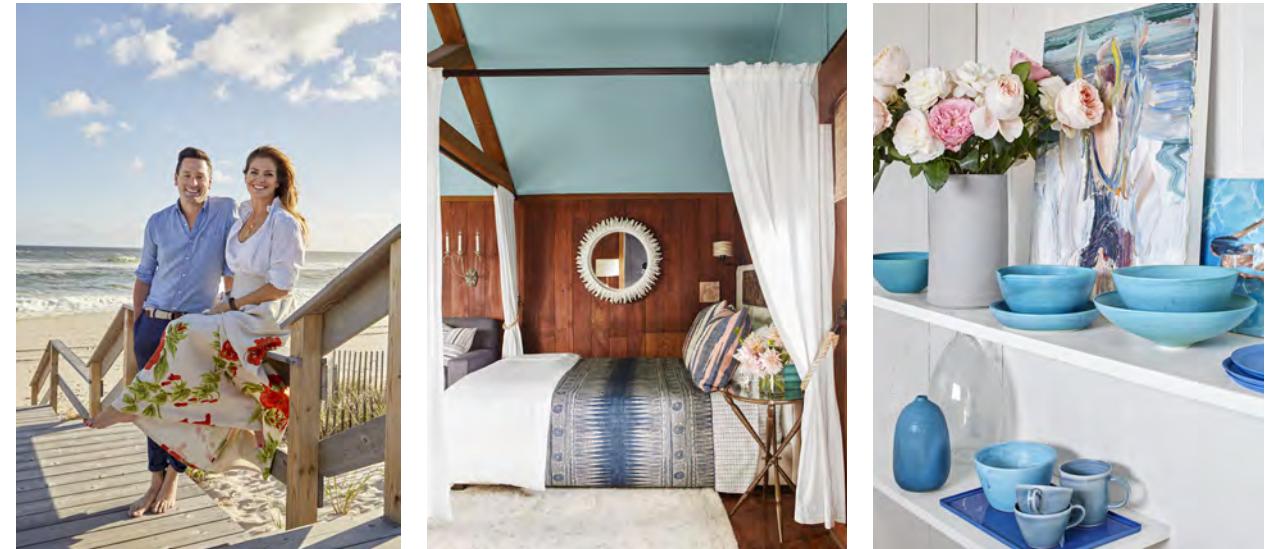


going small



The inside of the beach house is big enough for only the bare necessities. (The shower didn't make the cut. It's outside, ready to rinse sandy feet.) The location, inviting deck, and cozy interiors, however, feel downright luxurious.



A creaky screen door, rough sand-scraped floors, and gorgeous views at sunrise. This is the story of how a teeny-tiny, one-room gem leaves a giant impression on everyone who visits. Such was the case for New York interior designer Jen Going, who grew up spending summers at the Long Island rental cottage with her family. Jen, along with her design partner, Stephen Czeck, *above left*, was tapped to freshen the sun-faded cottage built in the 1950s. The pair nodded to the past—and Jen's childhood memories—by playing up the rustic wood finishes but modernizing them with a natural palette and clean-lined furnishings. Use their ideas as a template for your own rendezvous point, no beach required.

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The bed is part of Jen's furniture line and typifies her signature look: rustic but refined.

1/ BUILD UP THE DETAILS

Start with color. "If it works in nature, it works," Jen says. The playful sea green ceiling (with an assist from the complementary reddish wood) sets the tone. The other colors and textures follow the seaside theme. But, Jen warns, don't fall into the usual beach tropes. She used nary a shell, ship's wheel, or vintage life preserver because, she says, it's all about color, texture, and mood. "Suggest beach house. Don't scream it."

2/ MAKE TIGHT QUARTERS WORK

Jen's small-space pointers: "Edit down your stuff and use every nook and cranny." Straightforward, sure, but there's an art to it. Each piece of furniture is movable, does double duty, or increases storage. To sleep six people, the sofa pulls out, and the daybed hides a trundle. An inspired solution for privacy: curtains on rods around the bed.

3/ KNOW WHERE TO STOP

After standing for so many summers, this beach house held memories for lots of families like Jen's. It was important to update but honor the past, she says. "Be careful of what you replace and how you replace it." Jen and Stephen drew the line at replacing or painting the honey-color wood. Exposed beams, wall panels, floors, and even the scalloped window trim keep the cottage rooted in history.



Smooth white plastic dining chairs counter rougher textures.

Heavy mainstays like the bed and sofas line the perimeter. In the middle of the room, versatile lightweight pieces are easy to move around.



Though the cottage is only a short drive from town, chances are once guests arrive, they're not going anywhere. "We get everything we need on our way in and then don't put on shoes again until we leave for the train," Jen says. ■ **POSTSWIM SPRITZ** The outdoor shower stands ready for friends who wander up from the beach with wet suits and sandy feet. ■ **GATHERING PLACE** A floor-length piece of durable outdoor fabric hides an inexpensive round table. ■ **PARTY FUEL** Jen is always ready with antipasti and chilled rosé. Stocking olives, pickled veggies, and deli-counter salads makes it easy. ■



“ Our main motivator was right out the window. Why would you try to upstage the ocean? ”

JEN GOING,
INTERIOR DESIGNER

Jen and Stephen left the tiny kitchen pretty much as is, except for a unifying coat of paint.

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