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SEASIDE *Style*

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for every room!

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44 IDEAS
for the entire house

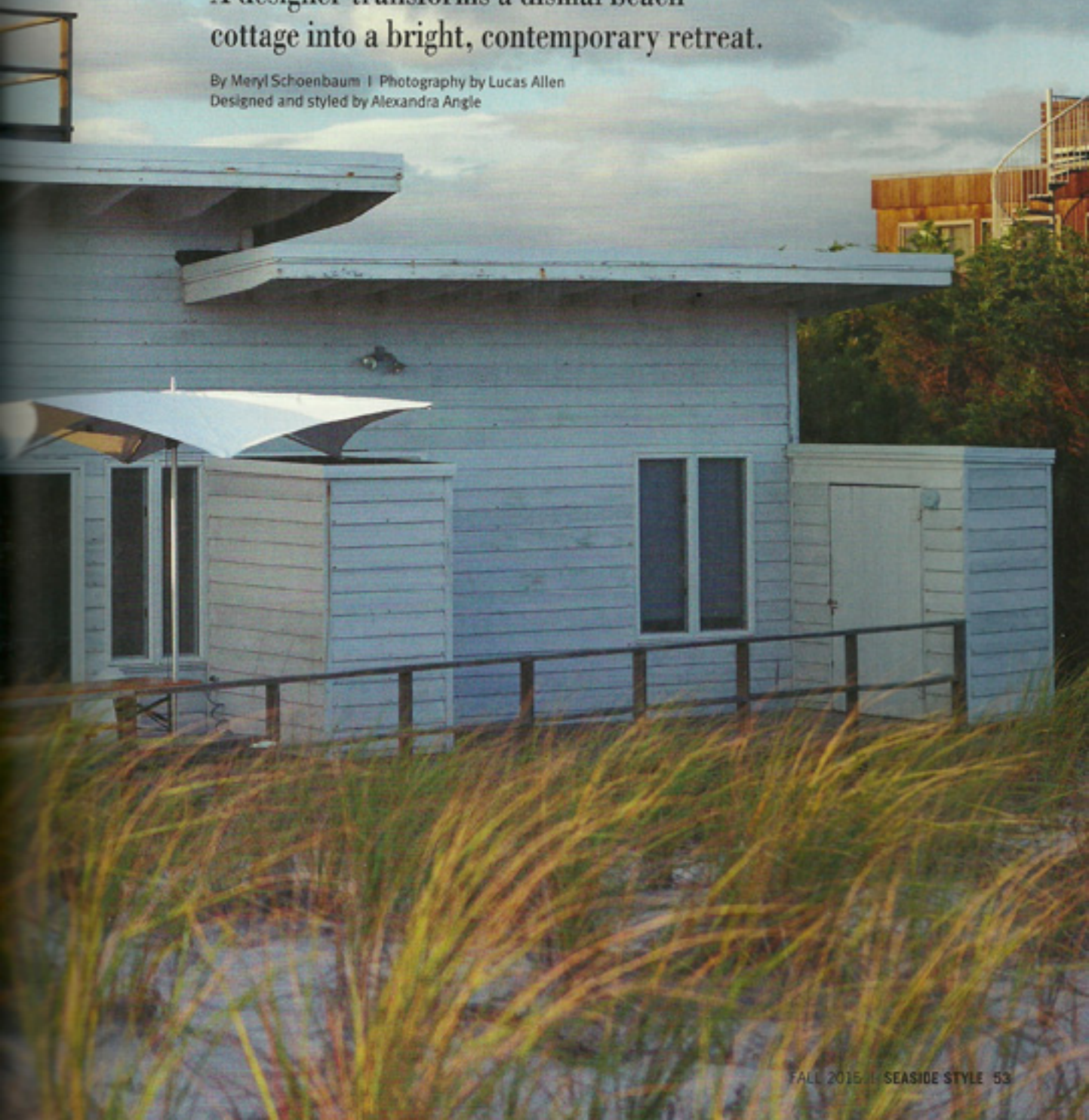
TOUR 10 CLASSIC
COASTAL HOMES



CLEAN, COOL & *Colorful*

A designer transforms a dismal beach cottage into a bright, contemporary retreat.

By Meryl Schoenbaum | Photography by Lucas Allen
Designed and styled by Alexandra Angle







The living area is a perfect example of how minimalist decorating doesn't have to mean spare and uninteresting. A globe light on the side table and a bare bulb reaching out from the wall are statement pieces. The fan chair in the foreground gives the room a light feeling. It is on wheels and has a rope back. Alexandra says the Hans Wegner chair is incredibly comfortable, lightweight and fits the home's informal décor.

Interior designer Alexandra Angle received an unusual request from the owners of this 1950s beach cottage: Just make it a "low-key and livable" happy retreat for now, as they intended to demolish it in a few years.

When Alexandra visited the cottage, she could see why they were disenchanted with it. Her first impression was that it was stuck in a time warp. "It was quite small and dilapidated," she says. "It had an outdated '50s look: dark bedrooms, old-fashioned murals, faded paint, messed-up floors, and the kitchen countertop had chipped Formica. It looked like it had never been changed, but it had a great location."

THE RENOVATIONS BEGIN

The owners wanted the home to be more comfortable for their family, which included two young sons, so they discussed expanding it. Alexandra had some creative ideas for adding space in each room, and she sprung into action to complete the project within a few months, just in time for summer.

First up were the bathroom renovations. "Everything was dark and dingy," Alexandra says. "We totally renovated them, gutted them; even the plumbing was moved." She wanted to make the bathrooms look bright and interesting. "I used the same off-white paint as throughout the house, and I put in linoleum floors to keep it informal. I [visually] lengthened the bathroom with a long, striped area rug." She used open shelves to keep the room feeling light and had recessed, lime-green shelving built. A freestanding tub is an interesting piece that saves space. The bright citrus colors of the towels, some of which also have the striped pattern, add a fun element to the room.

The kitchen also benefited from some renovation work. "There used to be a solid wall from the cabinets down to the countertop," Alexandra explains. "Now you can see through to the dining room. We added open shelving so nothing looks closed in. A pegboard was attached to the wall to hold culinary equipment, keeping tools handy. "The husband cooks a lot, so he needs good lighting. We put a hanging light bulb down to a level that's useful for cooking. It's a minimalistic way to do it," she says.

OPENING STATEMENTS

Once the major renovations were done, the decorating phase began. Alexandra came up with creative ways to save space and give each room an open feeling. The guest bedroom illustrates her objective.

She mounted discs on the walls as hooks for guests' clothing and accessories. They are both practical and interesting as contemporary art for the room. Using different sizes adds a whimsical touch. "You can't hang artwork on beach-cottage walls because the dampness would ruin them over time, so the hooks fill the wall space nicely," Alexandra explains. To make guests



A colorful hanging cocoon chair greets guests as they enter the living area from the deck. The homeowners have two kids, so it's a fun place for them to unwind after being outside.



The piano was one of the few pieces that were original to the home. Alexandra had it painted white to fit the light, bright décor. The chair backs have an open Scandinavian design. Alexandra designed the blue-and-white wall hanging that opens up to store barware. The room sports the globe lighting that is found throughout the house.



feel welcome, she put a beach bag on a hook for them to use during their stay. She decorated the room with seersucker shades for an informal look, white bedding, a pedestal table instead of a heavy nightstand, pops of color and wall-mounted lights.

The hallway presented a particular challenge for the designer as it was very narrow, with three doors and no light source. "We painted each door a light, cheerful color. Then we brought colors that were similar to each room's door into the rooms."

The two boys' bedroom was small, but Alexandra pulled out her bag of design tricks to make it look playful. "I put lights with hooks on a wire cord so they can plug them in and walk around with them or hang them up," she says. She installed a plastic wall hanging with compartments for art supplies and hung open shelves for books and toys, which provide another opportunity to add color through accessories.

To say that the owners were pleased with the outcome would be an understatement. "They loved it so much, they decided to stay rather than demolish it," Alexandra says. "That's the best compliment a designer can get."

included colorful stripes on the pottery and area rug. To conform to her vision of having nothing in the home look closed in, she used open shelving and painted the interiors bright red.





White walls provide a clean background for bright colors and citrus stripes throughout the house.



GET THE LOOK

Big ideas for small-room design

- **Think vertical.** A bunk bed is a great space-saver and a fun element for a children's room. Add a striped area rug, as Alexandra did, to make a room look longer.
- **Think thin.** To make a room look lighter and larger, replace heavy tables and nightstands with pedestal furniture.
- **Think outside the box.** One of Alexandra's favorite design tricks for adding space to small rooms is to use open shelving for accessories.

For more information about Alexandra Angle, please visit alexandraangle.com.

The dining area features a high ceiling, lightweight chairs and a multiarmed chandelier. The flooring is linoleum, which was placed in every room. Bright accessories ensure a delightful dining experience no matter what the weather is outside the glass doors.



