

ISLE OF CALM



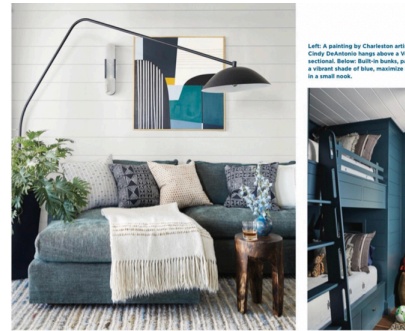
A pair of Chicago transplants trade the Windy City for the quiet South Carolina coast, where they put a cool, cozy twist on the traditional beach house

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Left: A painting by Charleston artist Cindy Davidson hangs above a vertical sconce. Below: Built-in bunk beds, with a vibrant shade of blue, maximize space in a small nook.

THE HOME'S INTERIOR PALETTE OF MOODY BLUE AROSE FROM SLAB OF BLU TIDES GRANT

Clowey's challenge was how to design a modern reverse plan home—the Bergers wanted to position the primary living space on the third floor to take best advantage of their shoreline panoramas—with roof forms that still would nod to the local island vernacular. This lot has the widest ocean view that I've seen on a beach house in this area," says interior designer Courtney Bishop, known for her organic, modern take on coastal interiors. But the downside of moving the kitchen, living and dining rooms, and master suite up, notes the architect, is that you can end up with a potentially bulky, massive house. "Once you bring those relatively large spaces to the top, you have to fill in the blanks below," he explains. "That's a lot of house rising all the way up."

To counterbalance the weight at the top, Clowey added shuddered mahogany bays between the columns on the ground floor. It was a solution that came with a cozy benefit: By enclosing the space under the house and adding a kitchenette, lounge seating, and dining table, the ground floor functions more like a pool cabana than a de facto storage area. "We all grew up with beach houses where the house just stuck up in the sky, and underneath it was filled with spiderwebs and surfboards," Clowey says. "We never did it. We've changed those houses and made them useful."



Architect Bruce Clowey placed the living spaces on the second floor—turning the ground floor into a pool house. Below: The concrete slabs that support it connect to a whole oyster shell.



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... of blue—reflected in the big sky over, view just outside—dominate stream-filled bedrooms.



scheme and mod furniture forms, the kitchen and living room's vaulted ceilings are paneled in locally harvestedinker cypress. "We left it unfinished, and it gives the space a lot of warmth," Joan says.

In the kitchen, the Bergers deliberately avoided upper cabinetry, so as not to obstruct that view, and had only drawers installed under the kitchen's perimeter countertop (an easier reach for items in the back, Joan notes). A sliding glass window opens the kitchen to a screened-in dining room, one of seven separate porch "rooms." "We can just leave the doors and windows open to the porches and let the breeze come through," says Joan.

This is the first Christmas the Bergers will spend in the house. The couple's two children and their families will join Joan, Dennis, and their two rescue dogs (Duke and Daisy) for a few days of rest and reconnecting in eight rooms and on salt-air porches. Clowey even outfitted a screened-in veranda on the garden side of the home with warty nightgins in mind. There, an outdoor fireplace is encased in whole oyster shells—an updated, artisan take on tabby (a mixture of crushed oyster shells and

