

classic **spirit**

Beloved antiques and fresh coastal style converge in a Rhode Island cottage that is as relaxed as its setting.

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Water views, natural textiles, and blue and white upholstery give the great-room a relaxed, beachy feel.





Left: Designer Jocelyn Chiappone honored the homeowners' traditional style by incorporating many of their period antiques, including this wooden console table. *Above:* The Rhode Island cottage sits near wetlands and the Atlantic Ocean's coast. Consistent with surrounding homes, this one's silhouette is low—upstairs rooms are tucked into the eaves. *Opposite:* In the sunroom, flower motif pillows from Katie Ridder echo the blue detailing in the antique oars above the wicker settee.

Designer Jocelyn Chiappone doesn't want you to focus on the decorating of this cottage. To Chiappone, a job well done means that, instead of homing in on the details, your eye is carried past the quiet interior and out onto the Cape Cod house's surrounding stone wall, small idyllic meadow, and views of the Atlantic Ocean. "It's all about the location," she says. "We wanted the interiors to take a step back."

Built in 1935, the Little Compton, Rhode Island, house previously sat vacant for years until it was purchased by a health care executive who had spent many summers nearby. He and his wife wanted the home to feel summery and have a relaxed, cottage look that was in keeping with the town's humble architecture.

As purchased, the property felt disjointed with a lot of small rooms and, essentially, two separate wings. Architect Christopher Arner worked in partnership with DLS Construction to extend the home with a two-story addition that created a large, open layout. The home's original front door was also relocated to the addition, affording it a spacious new entryway.

Sandy wide-plank oak floors and cream-white walls gave Chiappone the perfect neutral canvas. When tasked with updating the home's interiors, she knew the homeowners wanted a light and airy space that fit their traditional taste and could comfortably accommodate their collection of antiques and family heirlooms. "The goal of this project was, 'How can we integrate the homeowners' beloved pieces while keeping it really fresh and casual and more of a summer house?'" Chiappone says.

The homeowners' period treasures, including a collection of antique oars and paintings by the wife's late mother, appear on walls throughout. "All the pieces







This photo: Chinoiserie-style stools lend warmth to the all-white kitchen. *Right:* “The house is all about coming in off the boat with sandy feet and entertaining guests,” Chiappone says. “The homeowners wanted a large dining area to accommodate a crowd.”



worked really well in terms of mixing with the design,” Chiappone says. “The paintings are beautiful. It was so nice to have them.”

The curated look is amplified by each room’s well-thought-out mix of textures and colors. In the sunroom, the light geometric carpet shares the spotlight with wicker chairs and an antique lamp with a tortoiseshell shade. In the living room, a navy brushed-cotton sectional and dark wicker chairs pair with a white Redford House coffee table.

Chiappone’s classic cottage style calls for overstuffed upholstery, seagrass carpets, and a mix of lighter-tone tables with dark wooden antiques. She selected hand-blocked fabrics as a starting point and layered blue and white textiles and preppy motifs into a cream-and-gray palette. Organic materials—sisal carpets, solid oak counter stools, and woven-rope chairs—add welcoming texture.

Although the main living room has a large and open floor plan, Chiappone sought to create defined nooks. Three distinct areas—the fireplace, the kitchen, and the dining room—feel cozy and cohesive thanks, in part, to shiplap with nickel-gap paneling, elegant millwork, and coffered ceilings. It’s exactly the kind of quiet, welcoming atmosphere the homeowners envisioned. “It’s quintessential Little Compton,” Chiappone says. “It has a summer aesthetic and classic New England feel.” □

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Left: Texture-rich furnishings repeat throughout the home. At the foot of the newly added stairway, a rattan console table and woven basket pair with a durable jute rug. *Above:* A plush swivel chair tucked into the master bedroom's corner creates a cozy nook. *Opposite:* The main level's soft palette of blue and white continues into the guest room. Feathery fabrics from Jane Churchill, used for the pillows and draperies, complete the sophisticated look.

