

Life's a Beach

Homes, Retreats,
and Respite by the Sea

gestalten



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cocktailing. The glowing wood burner, complete with a thick-pile rug for lounging, provides the focal point.

In the Anglo-American coastal code for living, every surface has hosting potential. From an eclectic cluster of antique portraits, abstract still lifes, and needlepoint on the wall, to the neat functionality of a pegboard with hanging utensils; every object has its place. Dark, brooding wood panels or floorboards pair well with uplifting white walls, cozy sheepskin, worn tan leather, cheerful handmade pottery, a scrubbed pine table. Furniture and art become one, whether a stool hewed from a wonky tree trunk, or an interesting stone lugged directly from the beach. And yet a functionality is always present. A desk for writing letters; a row of wall-mounted, handily adjustable lamps for late-night bookworms. An arts and crafts bureau is home to a gathering of vases containing wildflowers, coral, and seashells, but the look is more cabinet of curiosities than mere beachcomber.

Maggie collections stay just the right side of clutter by contrasting them with calm moments for contemplation or day-dreaming. A chair positioned by the open window for an uninterrupted ocean view. The clean and crisp is undercut with the textural and storied. A healthy patina is encouraged, even celebrated, with weather-beaten wood or rusted metal chairs making their way inside from the garden.



Nantucket was famously the setting for Melville's *Moby Dick*, and the spirit of adventure lives on in the East Coast style, even if you are safely stowed inside your house. Like the timelessly endearing stripes of a Breton shirt, the nautical interior can be explored in fresh new ways while paying tribute to the fishing industries that continue to define the livelihood of the region. Avoid the gift shop souvenirs and instead look to the shipyard for inspiration—you cannot go far wrong. Coils of hardy rope, acoustic-improving cork, shiny brass rivets, and seaworthy wood paneling bring an authentic maritime flavor without crossing over into pastiche.

Hardware can be softened for dry land with the help of hand-stitched patchwork quilts, eye-catching rag rugs, and stacks of faded, mismatched pillows. Recycled textiles bring a low-key mood to heritage pieces: a Shaker chair, an iron bed frame, juxtaposing light and heavy for comfort and character. Reds, whites, and blues bring a nautical zing to otherwise serene spaces. Bold primary shades can be carefully mixed with textured neutrals and gently clashing patterns for a more insouciant take on a patriotic palette. Or take your colors into industrial territory with rust red, navy blue, and charcoal gray.

The East Coast beach house is a place of protection and retreat. Confront the wilder elements at play outside, if only to return to your safe haven. Shake off the sand or the rain and take refuge in the gently darkening room.



TOP LEFT Darker wood is softened with sheepskins and white-painted floorboards, as seen in Purveyor Design's East Hampton beach house. BOTTOM LEFT A cane headboard, paired with a woven lampshade. TOP RIGHT With the ocean at your cabin door, a boat is all you need. BOTTOM RIGHT Furniture as sculpture. Leave space for special pieces to shine.



LEFT A McKinley-designed mahogany couch sits across from blue and red vintage armchairs. TOP A small wooden coat rack and shelf holds books and beach-going paraphernalia.



LEFT Sitting just above water level, the boathouse is used for relaxed entertaining. TOP RIGHT White linen sheets and a jute-colored carpet combine for an airy, relaxed bedroom. BOTTOM RIGHT A plaster light hangs above a hexagonal travertine table and antique French chairs.



Nothing but the shade of the roof separates the bath from surrounding tropical foliage.



LEFT A blue-and-green chair is suspended from the roof, matching foliage and ocean beyond. TOP RIGHT The kitchen features a yellow lacquered range hood made by a local artisan. BOTTOM RIGHT A cozier, upper-level living area looks down over the main living space.



Large sliding doors and windows remove the boundaries between interior and exterior.



The home's cement and steel structure allows the outdoor deck to be sheltered from the elements.



TOP LEFT Light streams through the exterior slats during the day, leaving intricate shadows. BOTTOM LEFT A large, thick-wheeled dining table sits on a cement slab between the structures. RIGHT Simple white bedding, cement, and timber combine to form a minimalist bedroom interior.



TOP LEFT Windows framed with red surround the upper level of one of the pavilions. BOTTOM LEFT Inside, the wooden structure is complemented by simple wooden furniture and paneling. RIGHT A wood-burning heater and sheepskin-covered chair bring warmth to one of the pavilions.



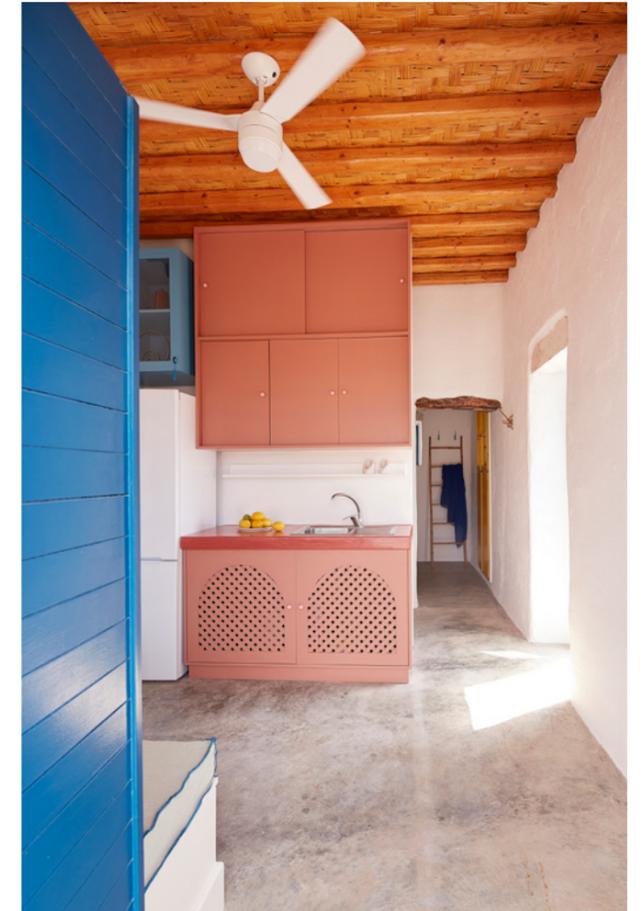
A Trio of Black Structures Unites an Archipelago Home

Built onto Stockholm Archipelago's natural rock, three dramatic black structures make up this waterside Swedish summerhouse, designed by Tham & Videgård. During construction, owner Tomas Riesenberg Tjajkovski grappled with the challenges of building in the secluded island location—with all materials being brought in by boat—which led him to co-found a specialized Swedish summerhouse building company. Constructed with the island's elements in mind, the house itself faces towards the sun in the south and the sea views in the west, while the zigzag orientation of the three structures provides a central social platform that is sheltered from the island's strong winds. "Standing on the plot's only flat surface allows the foundations of this summerhouse to have a minimal impact on the site," says Tjajkovski, "preserving natural characteristics and allowing rocks to filter down to the house." As striking as the black exterior is, the interior elements capture a more calming seaside essence. The wardrobes, bunkbeds, and shelving units were handmade on-site and painted white, bringing a lightness that is enhanced by the sun-welcoming picture windows, while white-painted horizontal join panels make up the walls and ceilings, and white-oiled oak the floors and doors.



STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO,
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

THAM & VIDEGÅRD
ARKITEKTER



LEFT Yellow, blue, and red brighten the entrance room's traditional white walls and high ceilings. TOP Polished cement floors and salmon-colored cabinetry bring a modern touch to the home.



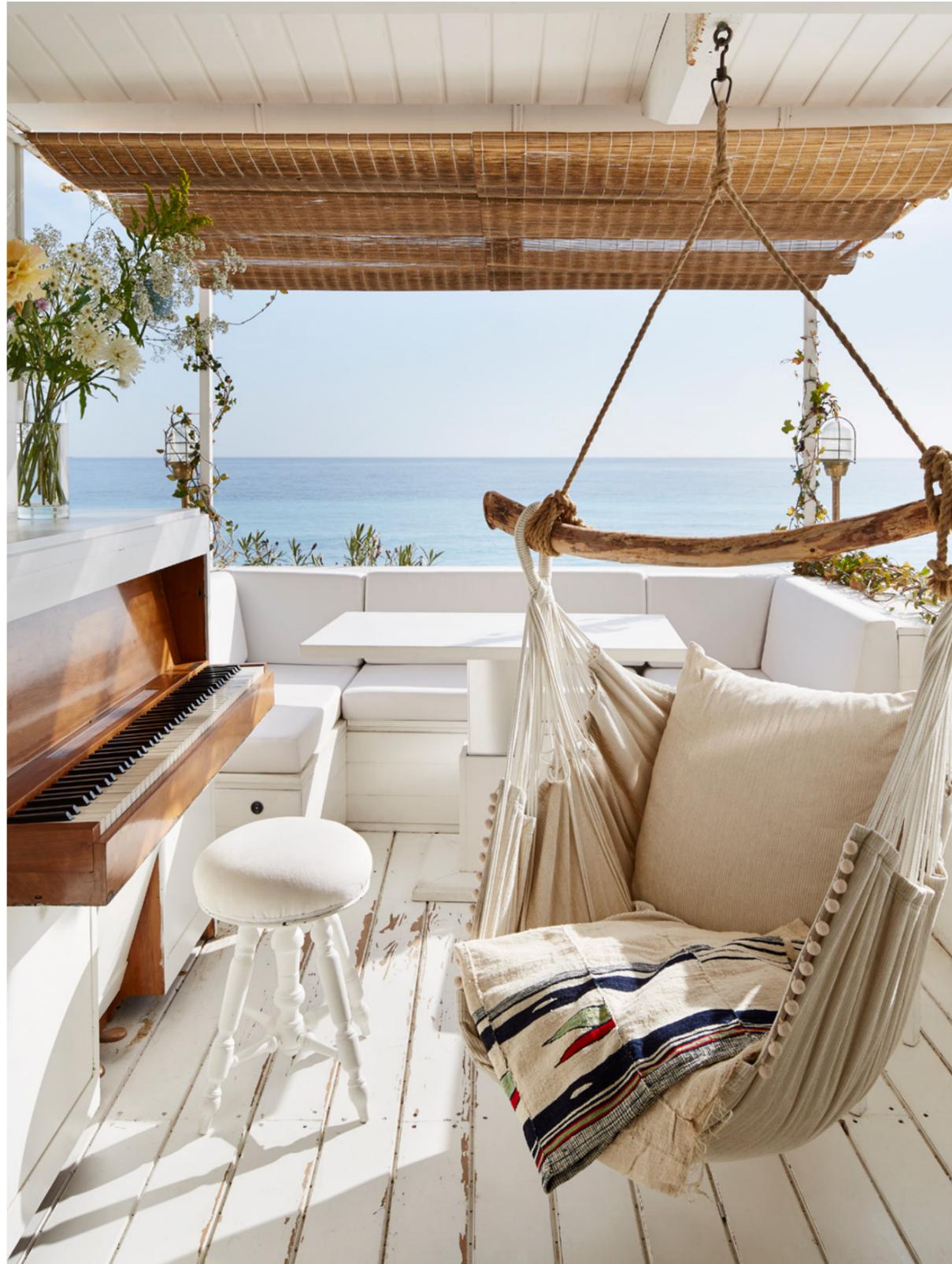
LEFT A small, clear, plunge pool is surrounded by olive trees and a yellow Marria Pratts table. TOP Green and yellow sculptural forms hang from the olive trees outside the cottage.



Sliding windows open up the living space to the terrace with marble floors flowing between the two.



LEFT A large, curved swimming pool is surrounded by greenery and potted plants. RIGHT In one shaded area, a hammock is set up beside a small cane table, rugs, and cushions.



TOP An outdoor piano and hanging chair bring a whimsical charm to the terrace. RIGHT The white-and-brass theme continues into the bathroom's sink fixtures and mirror.