

cottage style

*Fresh looks for
easy living*



2010
Display until May 25



meredith Specials®



OPPOSITE:
Heirloom silver
pieces and a
crystal chandelier
add sparkle to
the dining room.
The all-white
color scheme,
with a weathered
wood table and
upholstered chairs,
is the epitome of
casual elegance.

endless summer

A South Carolina family heads
to the beach and transforms an
outdated coastal cottage into a
gracious full-time family home.

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After years of vacationing

on Isle of Palms, South Carolina, just 15 minutes from downtown Charleston, Chuck and Cindy Hughes and their two children left their traditional inland home for a relaxed life at the beach. "Basically, we wanted to live our vacation," Cindy says. "This is where we feel most alive."

Cindy had long admired a row of properties about 100 yards from the ocean, and when a three-story 1930s cottage came up for sale, she and Chuck bought it. It's a short walk from the house to the marina, the charming business district, and the abundant Carolina marshland. The couple snapped up the property without even seeing the interior, confident they could transform what they knew would be dark and dated rooms into a light and airy cottage-style home to fit their needs.

Working with local architect Stephen Herlong, the Hugheses removed interior walls; repurposed rooms, such as the original kitchen, which became the dining room; created a spacious master suite from two bedrooms and a tiny bath; and built a two-story addition with a garage on the main level and an open kitchen and sitting room above. Going back to the cottage's roots, they covered old and new surfaces with warm pine plank flooring, tongue-and-groove paneling, and streamlined molding. Soft shades of white paint unify the rooms, while expansive windows draw in the sunshine bouncing off the ocean's waves.

Cindy called on friend and interior designer Geisha Urbon to help her create the inviting, easy-care decor. She and Urbon used only the most casual pieces from the family's former home, such as the four upholstered chairs in the sitting room, and added a mix of treasured family heirlooms. "I have a story for every piece in the house," Cindy says. They also mixed in vintage rattan and nautical elements from shopping forays. "Geisha and I will shop anywhere within a drivable distance. A lot of times I just go out junking and run into the perfect thing," Cindy says.

The home's colors are soft and light, with hints of spring green and turquoise adding punch. Practical upholstery fabrics such as terry cloth enhance the carefree lifestyle, while gauzy bed curtains lend beachy appeal. At the end of the day, Cindy and Chuck retreat to their cozy third-level balcony, just the right size for two. "It's perfect," Cindy says. "We can enjoy a glass of wine, look out on the ocean, and stargaze—while at home."

Just off the kitchen, the sunny sitting room is the perfect spot for the family to sink into comfortable chairs and play games, watch TV, or talk before and after meals.









OPPOSITE: Lime-green walls inject a fun, beach party vibe in the tiled sunroom, which hosts a curvy bar outfitted with cocktail essentials. TOP: The kitchen addition is open, with modern conveniences as well as finishes and materials suitable to the original 1930s cottage: marble countertops, painted white cabinets, and chrome stools. ABOVE LEFT: "I love personal collections," says homeowner Cindy Hughes, who groups a variety of white bowls on a bamboo shelf for greater impact. ABOVE RIGHT: The newly renovated cottage looks crisp and cool with light gray siding and white painted trim. Palm trees and a swimming pool create an easy transition to the nearby ocean.





LEFT: A gauze canopy lends a romantic air in the master bedroom. ABOVE LEFT: The master bath is simple yet luxurious with an original claw-foot bathtub, reclaimed French doors, and abundant storage and display space. ABOVE RIGHT: An antique dressing table with a three-way mirror adds glamour in the master suite's newly configured dressing area. BELOW: Terry cloth upholstery on the armchair and ottoman is cozy and practical for the beach house. This bright corner leads to a private master suite balcony.

