

# COASTAL LIVING

CHOOSE OUR  
HAPPIEST  
SEASIDE  
TOWN  
PAGE 57

THE COLOR ISSUE

## BEAUTIFUL BLUES!

PLUS: Reds, Yellows, Greens & More

Hot Salsa  
Recipes



Turks & Caicos

THE FAMILY  
GAME ROOM  
IS BACK!

CROATIA'S  
SECRET COAST

*Best Whale-Watching spots*

TROPICAL  
PUNCH

Tropical punch into  
ise

12215 WONDERS VIEW WAY  
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1656  
SHEPPIE MOELLER  
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# Contents

COASTAL LIVING  MARCH 2014



## Features

### 60 Color Confidential

As a little dash or a big splash, color is our favorite way to transform a space. Get hot paint picks, accessories, and designer secrets in our guide.

### 68 Chasing Rainbows

A fairy-tale red cottage on a Michigan lake wows with a whole new hue starring in each bright, happy room.

### 74 Palette Perfected

Lively pattern and color reign from the ceilings to the lamp shades in a 140-year-old farmhouse on the water in Trappe, Maryland.

### 80 Croatia's Secret Coast

Still untouched by tourist crowds, Istria's shoreline awaits with olive groves, sunny coves, and amazing food.

### 86 Some Like It Hot

Salsa takeover! We have recipes to try it 10 new ways, from Smoky Orange-Jicama Salsa to fiery Salsa Roja.



The walls and ceiling are painted White Dove and Pale Sea Mist, respectively, both by Benjamin Moore. The chandelier is from Lamplight Designs, and the lamps are by Barbara Cosgrove. The coffee table is from Salvations.



# Palette Perfected.



A homeowner  
goes back to  
her roots in a  
stunning and  
eclectic waterfront  
home in Trappe,  
Maryland

BY TERRI SAPIENZA  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHNNY VALIANT  
STYLING BY MATTHEW GLEASON



The entry walls are painted White Dove by Benjamin Moore; the console is from West Elm. Opposite, clockwise from top: The ceiling in the dining room is painted Breath of Fresh Air by Benjamin Moore; the rug is from Fibreworks. The fabric on the kitchen barstools is from Dorelee.





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**GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT.** THAT'S the adage the owner of a charming 140-year-old farmhouse had in mind when she first set off on her quest to find a piece of paradise on Maryland's eastern shore. She had every intention of spending a few years in pursuit of a weekend retreat that would

eventually become the place where she would retire. But when she started looking, she fell for a house in the rural farming community of Trappe the first day. "I love the way it's sited on the land and how it relates to the water," she says. "It needed a lot of work, but I knew in my heart it just felt right."

What also appealed to the former advertising executive was the slower pace and laid-back lifestyle offered by the tiny town on LaTrappe Creek, where residents enjoy swimming, fishing, and boating in their own backyards. As children, she and her brother spent summers there. "They are some of my fondest memories," she says. "It was something I wanted to recapture."

After buying the home and completing an 18-month renovation, she spent several years enjoying holidays and summers at the shore. Then she retired, put her Washington, D.C., house on the market, and moved to Maryland permanently. The challenge? Merge the casual furniture in the farmhouse with the formal, inherited antiques from the previous city home. As luck would have it, the homeowner had worked with interior designer Kelley Proxmire before, so she knew exactly who to call this time around.



**Kelley Proxmire**





The ceiling in the master bedroom (above) is painted Sherwood Green by Benjamin Moore. The liners are from Lulu DK; the Roman shade fabric is by Sister Parish. The walls in the guest room (right) are painted Symphony Blue by Benjamin Moore. Opposite: The vintage sofa is from Ficks Reed; the chairs are from Brown Jordan.



**T**HANKS TO THEIR COLLABORATIVE history, Proxmire was already familiar with her client's personality and aesthetic, so she hit the ground running. "She's fun and cheerful, and she loves color," says the designer. "The farmhouse was going to be her full-time residence, so she wanted to make it

refined, but still keep it casual. In order to make it work, I told her she was going to have to be open-minded and rethink the way she uses things. A piece that was previously in her dining room might end up being someplace entirely different here."

With that in mind, existing area rugs were cut to fit new spaces. Curtain panels swapped rooms and were trimmed down into Roman shades. Chairs once used for formal dining were painted and now provide places to watch football in the living room. A collection of antique spoons belonging to the owner's grandfather is now gathered in gingham-lined shadow boxes that are hung for display in the kitchen. "Repurposing pieces and blending styles is about more than just being economical," says Proxmire. "It's about making spaces personal."

A cheerful palette of orange and apple green dresses the living room, where the more traditional furnishings look less fussy mingled with chartreuse lamp shades, a green-and-white painted ceiling fixture, and curtain panels sporting a peppy floral pattern.

A beaten-up fruit sign from a farmer's market ended up being the perfect finishing touch. "The wall hangings and the signs make the rooms so special and so hers," says Proxmire. They also reflect the homeowner's sense of humor. A sign that hangs on the outdoor shower reads "Showers: \$1, To Watch: \$2."

Proxmire also injected more color by sprucing up the ceilings: high-gloss green paint in the master bedroom; a lighter green in the living room; and overhead, on the screened porch, an ethereal pale blue. For subtle touches of texture, the sunroom ceiling is covered in grasscloth, and a powder room ceiling sports the same graphic paper found on the walls. The lively colors and patterns found throughout the house are tempered by crisp white walls, while rugs provide a neutral base underfoot.

After more than a year of living in the farmhouse full-time, the owner is happy to have discovered that her instinct about the house was right all along. She finds herself even more enamored with the place now than she was all those years ago. "I love it," she says. "The openness, the views, the peace—it's welcoming, comfortable, and cozy. It gives me joy." Proxmire agrees. Inside and out, she says, the house is now a true reflection of her client. "It's sophisticated, but also cheerful and fun. We call it 'the happy house.'" ■ **For more information, see Sources, page 105.**

*Terri Sapienza is a freelance writer and editor based in Washington, D.C. She was previously a staff writer at The Washington Post.*





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