

Smooth Sailing

DESIGNER LYNN MORGAN GIVES
A MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MASSACHUSETTS,
HOUSE A NAUTICAL, CHIC
LOOK—WITHOUT GOING OVERBOARD

*By Christina Cush Photographs by Annie Schlechter
Styling by Matthew Gleason*



In the family room, the
Ultrasuede upholstery
on the sectional sofa is
from Clarence House.
The striped pillows are
by John Robshaw;
the rug is from Crescent
Carpet Importers.
Opposite: The house is
steps from the harbor.





The living room walls (left) are painted Wispy Green by Benjamin Moore. The sofas are upholstered in fabric by Romo; the fabric on the pillows is from Lee Jofa's Seacloth collection. The garden stool is from Emissary Home & Garden. Below: The stairwell runner is from A.T. Proudian.



The dining room's bistro chairs are from Palecek; the cushion fabric is by Delany & Long. The teak-and-iron table is from Parc Monceau.



Just a quick jaunt from the beach and a harbor dotted with lobster boats in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, sits an elegant, shingled home on two private acres. With its rounded turret, blue-painted shutters, and simple boxwood-and-lavender garden, the house has all the charm of a cozy Colonial cottage in a small town. But after 15 years, the owners, a family of six from an upscale Connecticut suburb, decided the house needed some updating. Installing a new kitchen and stairwell turned into a full-blown renovation and addition—including a new family room, master suite, and pool—by Essex, Massachusetts-based architect Robert MacNeille. Then the family turned to Rowayton, Connecticut-based interior designer Lynn Morgan to infuse their home with a style that would reflect the seaside setting.

Throughout the house, Lynn stuck to a palette of turquoise, green, navy, and white. In the living room, seafoam green walls are a fresh and unexpected backdrop for a pair of bright turquoise sofas and lively patterned throw pillows in vibrant hues. “Blues and greens are great for a beach house,” says Lynn. “They feel like summer all year long.” Those colors get even brighter in the nearby mudroom, off the side entry, where one wall is painted with wide horizontal stripes of deep blue and apple green. The room also features a curved window seat adorned with bright blue-and-green pillows. In the family room, Lynn took a more classically nautical tack with a palette

The pendant lights in the kitchen are from Ann-Morris Antiques. The floor runners are from Magdalena York Collection.

“Blues and greens are perfect for a beach house. They feel like summer all year long”



of navy and white. A striped rug in those shades, and a navy Ultrasuede sectional with crisp white piping, stand out against a shiplap-clad wall decorated with local nautical charts.

Not all of the color in the house is quite so saturated as the living spaces. In the master bedroom, Lynn set a soothing mood with a monochromatic palette of soft blues. The walls are pale aqua, while the fabrics, from the upholstered benches to the bedding to the trim on the window shades, feature soft periwinkle. The master bath completes this serene scene with its blue glass-tiled shower. “It looks like an underwater palace,” says Lynn.

To offset the ocean colors, she incorporated a lot of natural elements, such as the ship-inspired mahogany windows, sisal area rugs, and grasscloth lamp shades. Lots of white, from the living room’s garden stool and coffee table to the high-gloss paint on most of the trim, also tones down the bright hues. “The key to using bold colors without overpowering the space is to keep other things in the room simple,” says Lynn. “Whites and natural textures definitely simplify things here.” But even in the more neutral rooms, such as the main foyer, pops of bright color appear—on a turquoise-trimmed sisal rug and on the aqua-painted backs of the bookshelves.



The home’s traditional exterior (above, left) sets a nautical tone up front. Top and above, right: The mudroom pillows are from Jonathan Adler.

Color, however, is not the only nautical nod in the house. Lynn also chose surface materials reminiscent of those found on sailing vessels, particularly in the kitchen. Like a pilothouse on a ship, the room is centrally positioned and just a few steps in any direction from other rooms on the main floor. The copper pendant lights above the island are modeled after captain's lights on a boat, while the rounded island itself, with its teak countertop and beaded board paneling, looks built to sustain strong gusts and swells.

Another shipshape attribute of the home is its clever use of built-ins. Smart shelving in every nook and cranny ensure that no space goes unused, as do the inviting window seats, which are upholstered in weatherproof fabric. The breakfast room, just off the kitchen, features a customized banquette that seats the family of six plus their weekend guests. "You can just slide everyone in there," says Lynn. "The table easily seats 10."

That table, plus the new outdoor entertaining area, get plenty of use—the house is now the gathering place for the owners' extended family. They come here to unwind from their hectic daily routines filled with work, school functions, and sports practices, and to reconnect with family and friends. "This is a fabulous oasis for our children to grow up with the freedom to ride bikes and explore and hang out with friends," says the owner. "It's just perfection." 🌊 For more information, see Sources, page 118.



The master bedroom walls (left) are painted Benjamin Moore's Sweet Blueette. The bed is from Mitchell Gold, and the bedding is Matouk. The custom benches are covered in Romo fabric. Pillow fabrics are from China Seas, David Hicks, and Lee Jofa. Above: The master bath's glass tiles are from Waterworks.



In one boy's room, the beds are from Maine Cottage, and the rug is from Helios Carpet.

"The key to using bold colors without overpowering the space is to keep other things in the room simple"