





The Bahamian green (Seacliff Heights by Benjamin Moore) on the shutters, trim work, and doors harmonizes with the blues used inside the home.

Sherry Dougherty had one nonnegotiable when it came to designing her family's new vacation home in the Alys Beach community on Florida's Gulf Coast: It had to be blue and white. "It's timeless," she says. "And I'm a ginger jar junkie." Living in Louisville, Kentucky, her aesthetic skews traditional Southern. But Sherry and her husband, Joe, wanted this house to showcase a more relaxed version of that aesthetic—with a little whimsy thrown in.

The couple hired Bohlert Massey Interiors, a local mother-daughter design firm, to help them evolve their look inside the bones of their contemporary beach house. Designed by architect Gary Justiss, the Mediterranean-style home features clean lines, dramatic archways, and plenty of indoor-outdoor connections.

Bo Massey and her mother, Susan Bohlert Smith, took Sherry's blue-and-white passion and ran with it, developing a case study for the classic combination. They selected furnishings, fabrics, and fixtures based on Sherry's desire to mix a bit of "old-world Bahamas" with a touch of "traditional Charleston." In the context of this consistent color palette, Smith says, their question for each space was "How can we keep it interesting—and do some different things—without it being so one-note?"

The duo succeeded by layering textures, tones, and patterns. Though the backdrop in almost every room is white, Massey and Smith opted for textural applications like Venetian plaster walls and white raffia wallcoverings. They also layered plenty of natural coastal fibers, such as wicker, rattan, and jute. And they played with blue tones throughout the house—leaning in the direction of rich indigos and deep navy blues to keep the look sophisticated rather than sweet.

The designers threaded those deep blue notes throughout the house by way of a dramatic, handpainted mural seen in both the living and dining rooms. "We looked at it as a conscious decision to use that much blue," says Massey. "One thing about Alys Beach is so many people err on the side of white, beige, and no color. In our opinion, a house void of any color is flat and not comfortable. But when you go into this house, it's really pretty delightful."



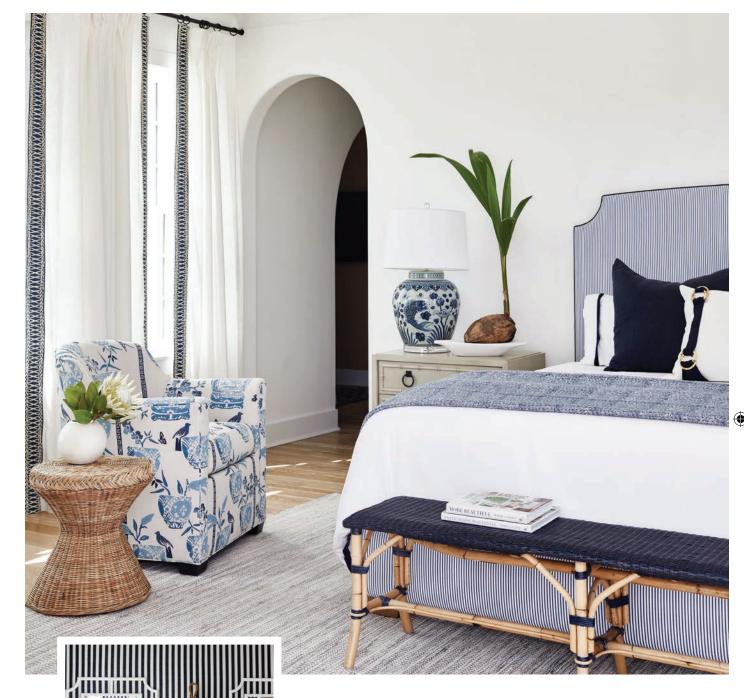
FRESH TAKE ON CLASSIC

A self-confessed ginger jar junkie, homeowner Sherry Dougherty is a fan of classic blue-and-white chinoiserie. To

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## THE RIGHT WHITE

The blue-and-white theme continues in the bedroom, where an upholstered bed sits against a crisp white backdrop. Getting the right white was key: The designers opted for the clean look of Benjamin Moore's Decorator's White for the Venetian plaster walls throughout the house. Elsewhere, they incorporated bright white raffia wallcoverings to add texture without disrupting the clean backdrop. The upholstered Serena & Lily bed pops against the white wall, like the ginger jar lamp beside it and the chair upholstered in blue Galbraith & Paul fabric. In the guest bath, an indigo-and-white cabana stripe wallcovering dresses up the walls. "We encouraged the bold use of dark blue as something that adds depth," says Massey. "We explained that even if we're using some of these rich blues, the house is still going to feel fresh and light. I think using the high-contrast shades gives the house the snappiness that Sherry wanted."

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