



just BEACHY

BY SOUTH SOUND STAFF | PHOTOS BY DANE GREGORY MEYER

A Gig Harbor Couple's Hideaway



*The railings were powder coated in blue paint that complements the blue refrigerator.

Check out the payphone. It works!

As the owners of this beach home can attest, two isn't always better than one.

The home actually used to be two cabins. The simplest way to convert the two structures into one home would have been to demolish both the old cabins and start from scratch. But that wasn't an option. Land-use restrictions bar new

construction in this waterfront area of Allyn, a small community on the Kitsap Peninsula overlooking the Puget Sound.

Still, Dave and Mame Morris of Gig Harbor saw the potential in the properties and enlisted the expertise of an architect, contractor and an interior designer to create a three-bedroom, 1,700-square-foot

beach house that is full of whimsical touches a reality.

"It's been fun," said Mame. "We had an open dialogue – we all talked together and had a really good time."

The first order of business was figuring out how to connect the two cabins that were not completely level with each »



* The bright colored ceramic tiles create a punch of fun on the backsplash in the kitchen.

* The buttery yellow island brightens up the space too, but in a classy way.



The pinstriped awning over the bar beckons guests to saddle up and be served. The counter is custom-made from a large hunk of cedar. The windows open so food can be passed from the kitchen out to the guests! Look to the left. That blue door on the ceiling is a garage door with windows. It pulls down to keep the bad weather out, making this a truly functional indoor-outdoor space.

other, nor were they lined up. "That was a big challenge," said contractor Ron Moblo of Fox Island Enterprises, who worked with architect Phil Kallsen of Seattle on the project.

The solution was to connect the two cabins by creating an indoor-outdoor space in the center, shielded by a glass garage door with blue accents. The door rolls up when the weather is nice, and rolls down (while not obstructing the view) when the weather is poor. The floor and ceiling are made of IPE wood, which looks

sleek and is more durable against the area's salty, moist air. Mame likes doing yoga in the space, while taking in the view.

INTERIOR DESIGN INSPIRATION

It all started with the robin's-egg blue Big Chill Fridge (bigchillfridge.com) Mame fell head over heels for – the same one that can be seen on Rachael Ray's Food Network TV show.

"It has the retro feel of an old icebox," said interior designer Stefanie Brooks of Tacoma. Brooks helped carry the blue

theme throughout the home by powder-coating the stair's handrail blue and the garage door. The couple also added more vintage pieces to the home, including an old payphone on the wall.

Other unexpected touches include portholes in doors, a bar with a pinstriped awning, a brightly colored ceramic tile kitchen backsplash and vintage finds throughout. "I wanted a trough-like sink in the bathroom," Mame said. "I have this vision of my (future) grandchildren lined up, standing on stools, washing their

hands" When she came across a piece in a Centralia second-hand store, she called the contractor. It was too long for the bathroom – but because he hadn't built the wall yet, he made it work. Then he saw the piece.

"That's not a sink, it's a urinal," he told her. A few adjustments later, the recycled piece makes quite a statement and conversation piece.

"It was serendipitous and we had a lot of fun with it," Brooks said.

"They had a sense of humor throughout. It is a fun whimsical place." »





* Proving that little details can make a big impact are these custom doors, complete with portholes like you might find on a ship.

“Double-duty furnishings – the wicker coffee tables open up to provide additional storage. The side table under the windows can easily be scooted out and unfold into a dining table that seats eight,” Mame said. “I painted some old wooden chairs bright colors to match the tiles on the kitchen wall and recovered the seats in shell-print fabric. The chairs are lined up on our bedroom wall and can easily be brought out when we have people for dinner.”



* They used faux grass in the landscaping because growing grass at the beach isn't easy and it requires little-to-no maintenance – perfect for a second home.

From left to right: Jim Morris, Sonja Reid, Mame Morris, Stefanie Brooks and Jim Reid spent some time enjoying the beach house. »

The couple's nephew, Josh Reid, hand-painted an octopus on the dresser and did more custom painting in the home.



* Frosted glass windows with anchor designs give privacy in the bathroom.

* In a former life this sink was a urinal but the homeowners refurbished it and turned it into a unique-looking sink. How's that for recycling?



DESIGNER TIPS FROM STEFANIE BROOKS

1 The large number of selections required during the remodel or custom-home process can be overwhelming and over-stimulating for most homeowners. I like to explain to my clients that it's best done in layers.

2 I prefer to start with the wood species of the cabinetry and hardwood floors, moving to the hard surfaces such as tile and countertops then ending with the perfect paint palette for the walls.

3 Although clients typically know what they like and do not like, the overall vision of the end result can be challenging for most. The layering process tends to help them finalize decisions that make sense to the style and overall character of the home, not to mention their personal style and taste.

4 "Simplified" and "treasured" are two words I like to think of while designing. Define and clarify your home's style by first identifying the period, character and architectural details. Recognizing these things will help shape and clarify the home's natural characteristics, which will lead to an overall impeccable design.

5 Blending old and new items throughout the home is another favorite way to design a space, whether it's old reclaimed beams adding architectural detail or an old trough-style sink (as seen in this beach house) picked up at the local antique store. Mixing the two worlds of old and new creates a space with conversation pieces that are unique to you and your home. ©

RESOURCES

Architect Phil Kallsen *Seattle, 206.382.1679*

Contractor Ron Moblo, *Fox Island Enterprises 253.265.3607*

Designer Stefanie Brooks *Interior Design Tacoma, sbinteriordesign.com*

Landscaping Scott Junge, *Rosedale Gardens Gig Harbor, rosedalegardens.com*