

➤ 1,750 SQUARE FEET



BREEZY & EASY Clean-lined beadboard built ins, efficient sea-worthy hardware and no-care indoor/outdoor fabrics up the efficiency in this streamlined home.

1970s WATERSIDE MAKEOVER

INSPIRATION

The vacation-minded architecture, colors and spirit of homes found on the Cayman Islands

DESIGN CHALLENGE

Make a plain-Jane 1970s builder tract design feel charming and fresh, in keeping with its fabulous ocean-side location

BIGGEST INDULGENCE

De Gournay "Fishes" custom-colored, hand-painted silver leaf entry wallpaper, which makes a demure entrance feel energized and luxurious

BEST ADVICE

Have fun with design...and don't be afraid of color!
— Interior Designer Brittney Nielsen



SHIPSHAPE SEASIDER

Improved light flow and nautical finishes give ho-hum the heave-ho!

OCEAN-LOVERS Therese and Frank Pallares resided in the Grand Cayman Islands for seven years before moving to a compact dockside home on Coronado Island, California. Having lived on a boat in the past, they knew they could thrive in smaller quarters as the organization required for life at sea was practically second-nature.

But they needed some help revamping the home's tired 1970s vibe, which was plagued by low ceilings and dark

hallways. "The architecture was not particularly charming and lacked details," said the couple's San Diego interior designer Brittney Nielsen. "In order to customize the house and make it feel richer and more coastal, we added ship lath board and beadboard paneling painted in white semi-gloss to most walls and ceilings."

Brittney continues: "The Pallareses also wanted lots of light and bright colors, with fun accents, and a chance to

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showcase their burgeoning collection of nautical art and accessories gathered from around the globe.”

Every Inch Put to Use

Space-expanding measures also were required. “Just as ship interiors maximize every last inch,” notes Brittney, “we raised ceilings in both guest bedrooms to follow the pitch of the roof, making the rooms feel larger. We also tucked

cabinets under new dormer windows for added storage. The vanity in the master bath has specially engineered drawers and pull outs for jewelry and the master bed is a raised platform with baskets underneath—similar to what you would find on a boat.”

For another space-expanding trick, Brittney installed large-scale pedestal sinks in bathrooms to reveal more floor space than a traditional vanity cabinet, thereby creating

DUTIFUL DESIGN The dining room’s ship lath ceiling makes the room feel larger, *below*. Built-ins include a long counter for serving, plus two under-counter refrigerators, wine cubbies and glass cabinets.



STEM TO STERN Indoor-outdoor living areas open onto each other, culminating in a boat dock off the back patio, *below*. Turquoise awnings, shutters with anchor cut outs and porthole windows salute this heavenly coastal haven.

SCENE-STEALER To add a practical but eye-catching touch of fun to the kitchen, Lily Pulitzer barstools, *above*, wear turquoise indoor/outdoor fabric seats. A large appliance garage maximizes storage while keeping counters tidy.



SMART SOLUTIONS FOR TIGHT QUARTERS

1. SMOOTH SAILING Use easy-to-maintain finishes such as indoor/outdoor fabrics for upholstery.

2. WASHED OVER White walls and woodwork create clean, bright spaces.

3. MAKE A SPLASH Embrace colorful fabrics and accents.

4. GO OVERBOARD Don't be afraid to opt for bold choices like turquoise wallpaper or shell sconces. Lighthearted, adventurous elements add to the nautical feel.

5. ALL HANDS ON DECK Beach houses attract visitors. Uncluttered living spaces make entertaining easy.

6. LIGHT SHOW Choose wall sconces and chandeliers to eliminate the need for table and floor lamps that take up precious space.

7. WIDE BERTH Add built-in storage both for efficiency and to keep walkways clear.

8. SLEEK STOWAGE Organize small items into baskets. They offer a nautical vibe while containing clutter.

9. ANCHORS AWEIGH Maintain a consistent color palette to unify spaces and increase visual flow.

10. HOIST THE SAILS In cramped rooms, raise the ceiling for the illusion of space.

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the impression of bathrooms that look larger than they are. Their generous sink surrounds offer valuable counterspace that would ordinarily require a vanity to enjoy.

Streaming Light Throughout

Making rooms feel naturally bright was also paramount to giving the house a larger feeling and expanding its sunny disposition. “Windows were added to the sides of the house to amplify sunlight and illuminate the stairs,” Brittney says. “Additionally, wall sconces and chandeliers were incorpo-

rated in most rooms. The installations are both space-saving and ship-like in appearance. Except on closets, we used French doors with laminated glass,” notes Brittney. This effectively creates interior windows that allow light to flow from space to space, even when the doors are closed, making every room feel grand and airy. But the laminated glass—which is commonly used for architectural purposes as it doesn’t shatter (think windshield) and is valued for its sound-insulating properties—is also opaque enough to provide privacy for residents and their guests.

HANGING OUT Designed for Therese’s father, a former Navy man and fisherman, the guest bedroom, *above*, sports pendant lights to save space on nightstands.

POWDER ROOM PRECISION A porthole medicine cabinet, *right*, offers hidden storage, while a rope strung between boat cleats keeps towels handy.



ROOM TO GROW Bunk beds, *above*, slide into a space between closets that’s wide enough to house a queen bed when children are grown. Caged glass nautical lights serve each bed while louvered doors on closets foster ventilation.

STYLISH STOWAWAYS Seaside lighting, a wood-carved mermaid and a ship’s wheel lavatory faucet keep this guest bath afloat, *below*. Built-ins hide behind the door to offer even more snuck-in storage.

