

# LOVE SHACK

How a color-loving designer poured his heart into the reno of this beachside cottage.



## MUDROOM

"To bring more light into the home" and help corral beach gear, designer Kevin Isbell turned this corner of the family room in a Nantucket beach house into a mudroom, paneling the walls in beadboard and painting them Benjamin Moore Buttered Yam. **Curtains:** F+J Interiors, in Clare Louise Frost fabric. **Bar cart:** Serena & Lily. **Basket:** Marine Home Center.

## SCREENED PORCH

"Because the cottage interior is so colorful, this space was deliberately left weathered and gray as a nice contrast," says Isbell. **Pendants:** Serena & Lily. **Table:** Witford. **Chairs:** Walters Wicker. **Cushion fabric:** Peter Dunham Textiles. **Candleholders:** Anthropologie.

interior designer Kevin Isbell Interiors / writer Kelly Allen  
photographer Read McKendree / producer Robert Rufino





**LIVING ROOM**

A mural by artist Audrey Sterk was digitized and printed on grasscloth for the walls. **Sofa:** custom, **J&J Upholstery** in **Clarence House fabric**.

**Pillows:** vintage (blue geometric needlepoint), and in **Martyn Lawrence Bullard** (green) and **Alex Conroy** (white-and-blue floral) **fabrics**. **Chair:** custom, **J&J Upholstery**, in **Ferrick Mason fabrics**. The client purchased the pillow fabric in Kenya. **Curtain fabric:** **Alvin Teal, Tulu**. **Floor lamps:** **Serena & Lily**. **Rug:** custom, **Studio Four NYC**.

**GUEST BEDROOM**

**Wall paint:** Barely Teal, **Benjamin Moore**. **Ceiling light:** **Arteriors**. **Curtains:** **Tulu**, with **Malabar** trim. **Chest:** vintage. **Rug:** **Studio Four NYC**. **Lampshade:** **Blanche Field**. **Stools:** client's own.



**KITCHEN**

Outdated green counters were replaced with white oak to warm up the freshly painted space. **Wall paint:** Butter, **Benjamin Moore**. **Cabinet paint:** White Dove, **Benjamin Moore**. **Curtains:** **F+J Interiors**, in **Radish Moon fabric**. **Art:** **The J.M. Byron House**. **Floor:** painted by Audrey Sterk.

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**“IT’S NANTUCKET—** without being so pastiche.” With its awkward ’90s-style features—like an oddly shaped room and green, bar-height kitchen counters—this two-bedroom Massachusetts cottage was begging for a light renovation and some cosmetic updates.

So designer Kevin Isbell decided to infuse the ocean-facing property with an unexpected coastal-casual

look—that also masked its illogical architectural features.

**“We obviously allude to the cottage’s nautical history throughout, but it’s in a much more exciting and different way from what most people think about—no lobster trap side tables for this family,”** says the Los Angeles-based designer.

The home’s showpiece? The so-called Whale Room, a family room that not-so-subtly nods to the island’s status as a whaling port in its heyday. To distract from the uneven ceiling—

which soars to nearly 15 feet on one wall—Isbell installed a mural featuring whales and ships by artist Audrey Sterk. It was digitized and printed on grasscloth to fill the room. “You walk in, and it’s sort of like an angry sea,” the designer says. “It’s textural and enveloping.”

Other updates cater to the homeowners’ lifestyle. The entire outdoor porch was converted into a screened-in dining area for 12. And what was once an odd narrow corner

of the family room was walled off to create a mudroom, now bright orange (“I was running out of colors!” Isbell says) and equipped with a bar cart the homeowners can roll out as needed.

Not to mention, nearly every fabric used in the home is printed—from small-batch, hand-block fabrics to textiles the client bought in Nairobi that Isbell had turned into pillows. “I figured, Why not go for it?” Isbell says. “It’s a summer home. It’s right on the ocean. It should just be fun.”