

This photo: Homeowner Beth Odence swapped concrete on the porch for bluestone and opted for black trim on the windows, which was typical of 1700s Cape Cod houses. *Opposite:* A cluster of Edison bulbs hangs in Beth's office, where she dreams up coastal-inspired textiles for her company, Design No. Five.





SEA *change*

There is nothing typical or trite about this renovated sea captain's cottage on Cape Cod—and that's just the way the owners like it.

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Beth Odence knew tying the knot with her husband, Phil, would mean

spending every summer in Cotuit, Massachusetts, the Cape Cod town he'd summered in every year since he was born. Fast-forward a few decades and Beth, a designer, suggested the couple shift to being year-rounders. Their main draw was an old sea captain's home in the heart of town where the empty nesters could live full-time and Beth could focus on her new businesses.

The late-1700s shingled Cape boasted plenty of seaside charm yet needed a lot of love. It had been added on to over the years and once operated as a bed-and-breakfast. In an extensive remodel Beth and Phil fixed the foundation, unearthed a hidden chimney, repaired water damage, restored plaster, refinished floorboards, and sent heat to the upper level.

At 4,000 square feet, the cottage had more than enough space, plus a studio, which had been sailed over from Martha's Vineyard but was in "deplorable shape and smelled," Beth says. "It was the last thing we tackled—it was the door you didn't want to open." Yet

Opposite top: The all-white “cocktail room” gets colorful splashes with painted furniture, armchairs covered in Nantucket Red Mermaid’s Purse fabric, and a fisherman painting by Rhode Island artist David Witbeck. *Opposite bottom:* A vintage outdoor table is covered in Design No. Five’s classic, colorful Painterly Stripe. *This photo:* The dining room walls don a custom metallic glaze that glows when lit by the brass-and-bronze Thomas O’Brien pendants.





opening that door came at a pivotal moment. Ready to retire from interior design and staging, Beth closed her business and warehouse (where she stashed enough furniture to fill eight houses at any given time) and turned the studio into a workshop, launching a line of coastal-inspired textiles.

“At the time, most of our clients were in summer houses and wanted a beachy look that was different,” Beth says. “I didn’t want to do another starfish, sand dollar, or seahorse; I didn’t want red, white, and blue. I wanted things to look like Cape Cod, not Florida.” Beth’s version of Cape Cod design is a twist on tradition with unexpected color palettes. Her kitchen

sports edgy black cabinets, while the dining room has a dramatic metallic silver glaze. Her signature “red room” blends Benjamin Moore Drop Dead Gorgeous wall paint with a pumpkin-hue wash, mimicking the classic Nantucket Red. Nearby, the shiplap-clad cocktail lounge is shaken up with deep reds, bright whites, and shots of turquoise. “I don’t love the over-nautical, overly Americana look,” Beth says. “It can get too ‘grandma’s attic’ if you go red, white, and blue.”

Design No. Five, Beth’s new textiles company, showcases fabrics that perfectly complement her interiors—a colorful, subtle nod to the sea without screaming beach house. The sustainable, durable



Left: For the “red room,” where color, art, and pattern run wild, Beth kept the floors neutral yet high in texture with a hemp-and-suede Serena and Lily rug. *Above:* She softened the kitchen’s black cabinetry with an old wood-block island, which formerly lived in a butcher shop. *Right:* Nautical photographs hang in the hallway above a locally found wood bench and a linear rug from Nordic Knots on Etsy.



pillows and by-the-yard fabrics began with a walk on the beach, collecting native sea creatures—think skate eggs, mermaid’s purse, and horseshoe crabs—which Beth convinced her designers to draw. Using her home as a test lab, the strange, enchanted sea-life patterns popped up in every room on duvets, pillows, and upholstery.

“It’s kind of intimidating but it’s actually what we have on Cape Cod,” Beth says with a laugh, describing how the crazy legs of a horseshoe crab look almost like a floral when drawn just right. “They become kind of charming!” □

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This photo: A custom hanging berth takes up less space than a standing twin bed and looks cheery made up in Beth's sunny yellow Horseshoe Crab bedding. *Opposite top:* The master bed mixes colorful patterns and textures with Belgian Z linens from Libeco Linen and decorative pillows and throws from Design No. Five, Peter Dunham, and Rag & Bone. *Opposite, bottom left:* Beth turned a Caroline Z Hurley block-print throw into a shower curtain and painted the existing claw-foot tub black. *Opposite, bottom right:* Seagulls wallpaper by Sanderson Vintage Collection graces the powder room for another nod to beach life.



“I DIDN'T WANT TO DO ANOTHER STARFISH, SAND DOLLAR, OR SEAHORSE.” —homeowner Beth Odence

