



**Below:**  
"Unfinished"  
rattan chairs add  
a little funk  
to the front porch.  
**Opposite:**  
The eclectic  
living room mixes  
neutrals, cool  
blues, and a pair  
of pastel-print  
armchairs to  
make the Golden  
Girls jealous.

# beachy keen

Color, pattern, and quirks galore. Fashion entrepreneur **Melissa Akkaway** used her eye for accessorizing to infuse her sunny SoCal bungalow with loads of personality.

BY HANNAH BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON FRANK ROTHENBERG



**A tale of two tiles:** Melissa went with classic subway tile in a mixed-neutral palette on the walls and chose bold patterned tile for the floor. "It's meant to get worn and weathered," she says. "It adds to the charm!"



For Melissa Akkaway, it's all about the details. The former boutique owner, fashion and retail expert, and founder of The Particulars (her content site that focuses on accessories) has spent her career traveling the world in search of awesome jewelry, hats, shoes, and anything else that can elevate an outfit.

When she and her husband, Eddie, bought a cute Venice Beach bungalow as a second home for their Malibu-based family (including kids Jack, 10, and Ford, five), she applied her fashion-styling skills to the space. Previously owned by an architect and a designer, the house was in great shape, so Melissa and interior designer Jeff Andrews focused on adding details to make it feel more personal. They started with color. "I'm not afraid of color or bold prints and neither is Jeff," Melissa says. The home's signature splashy teal shows up all over, from the front door to the kitchen appliances to the shower stall that's completely covered in teal tiles.

Next came pattern. Bold, hand-painted stripes on the ceiling of the boys' room add a fun, graphic punch. Patterned floor tiles act as a ▶



**Left:** With Venice Beach a short walk away, Eddie's surfboard gets a lot of use. **Opposite:** In the bar area (top left), cabinet doors cleverly conceal a washer and dryer. A framed sheet of two-dollar bills was a gift from Melissa's father for Jack and Ford. "My sons always say, 'Mom, if we ever need money, we can break the frame!'" she says. Teal ties the home together, showing up in the pastel-painted stairs (top right) and the tiled shower (bottom right). Custom throw pillows in Zimmer + Rohde fabric and vintage art in warm tones create a subdued, calm palette for the master bedroom (bottom left).

PROP STYLING BY COURTNEY DE WET. PHOTO OF EXTERIOR OF HOUSE BY EMMA FEIL.



**I LOVE EXPERIMENTING WITH PATTERN AND COLOR. IT MAY NOT BE EVERYONE'S TASTE, BUT THIS HOUSE FEELS LIKE US AND REALLY FITS OUR FAMILY.**  
—MELISSA





**THE DESIGN HAS A NICE  
BALANCE OF COMFORT, COLOR,  
AND SURPRISE THAT THE  
FAMILY CAN ENJOY FOREVER.**

—DESIGNER JEFF ANDREWS

common thread throughout the bungalow and create a laid-back, old California mood. And a mix of textiles—rugs and bed linens with graphic prints, accent pillows with a tropical vibe—brings warmth and whimsy. “We wanted to keep all the original charm of this house while making it conducive to how a modern family lives,” says Jeff. “The vintage feel was easy to achieve in a funky little cottage like this.”

When the family isn’t chilling at the beach, they’re probably hosting friends, with everyone gathering around the firepit on the roomy patio. “The outdoor space is one of my favorite features of the house; it feels so effortless hosting friends and family back there,” Melissa says. The boys love parties, too, because their room is perfect for sleepovers. There’s a hanging rattan chair for indoor swinging, and the room’s storage space was transformed into a loft. “We put mattresses and pillows on the floor up there so they can lounge and hang out with their friends,” she says.

The quirky mix of color and pattern, new things, and old things is an expression of Melissa’s style. Staying true to herself made renovating the bungalow a lot of fun—and created a space that’s equally fun to live in. “I find it’s good to go with what you love, then move forward and don’t look back!” she says. ■

*While the previous owners used this room as the master bedroom, Melissa and Eddie gave it to the boys so they could have more space to play.*