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She Grew Up in a Spot-On Replica of a Maryland Lighthouse. Now, She's Giving It Her Own Shine

Forget gauzy white interiors and sleek minimalism. Beth Anne Caples and her partner, William Kaner, doubled down on the Florida home's maritime aesthetic with vintage and salvaged goods they scored on the Eastern seaboard.

Text by
Heather O'Day



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Welcome to [Beach Week](#), a celebration of the best place on earth.

With new resorts and modern digs hugging its shoreline, Fernandina Beach, Florida, doesn't look like it used to. That is, until you cross paths with Katie's Light, a replica of Maryland's Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse that's tucked quaintly into the dunes. "Most people are looking to modernize," says William Kaner, who undertook the home's renovation with his wife, Beth Anne Caples. "We did exactly the opposite. We wanted the house to feel as authentic as the historic lighthouse it was inspired by."





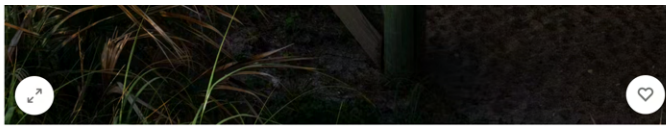
Katie's Light, a family's vacation rental turned home on Amelia Island in Florida is a near-exact replica of Maryland's iconic Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse.

Photo by William Kaner

Although this gleaned some chuckles from their contractor, Zach Lowe of EK&B, the decision to tread timeless was informed by the nearly 40-year-old structure's rich local and familial history. "My sister, Katie, and I grew up there. I can't think of a more magical place to have been a kid," remembers Beth Anne. The home, of course, is named after Katie, and she and Beth Anne's parents, former hoteliers David and Susan Caples, built the stilted three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath in the early 1980s with architect Robert Broadfoot. "During hurricane season, the waves would sweep right up under the house and we could hear it gurgling below the wraparound deck."

When Beth Anne turned eight, the Caples moved their family into a house more suited to their evolving needs, choosing to add Katie's Light to their company's list of rental properties. Two years ago, when William and Beth Anne assumed more active roles in the family business, they gladly volunteered to manage the structure, in addition to its long-overdue design refresh. "The interiors were really tired," says William, who recalls picking at drab, peeling wallpaper, "but the bones were exceptional. When you're inside, you can't really see the beach—it's just ocean in every direction—so you feel like you're on a ship."





The home was set on piles when it was built to give the protected dunes below room to sprawl.

Photo by William Kaner



An outdoor shower and foot washing station offer a place to rinse off after a day spent at the beach.

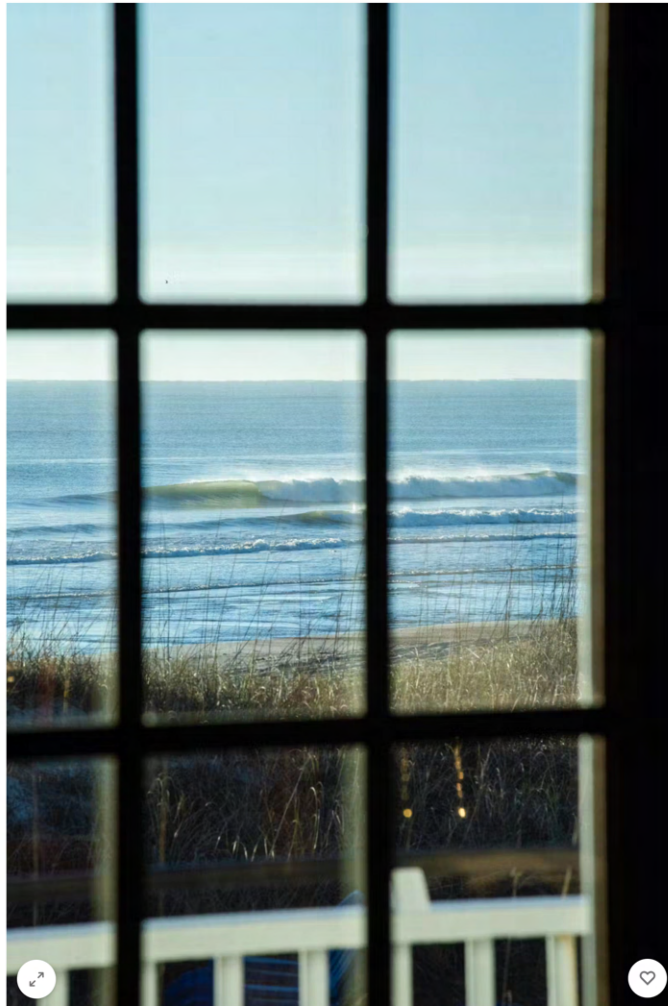
Photo by William Kaner





"Growing up in this house was like something out of a storybook," says Beth Anne, who recalls studding the porch with colorful shells and sea creatures she collected alongside her sister, Katie. A pair of chairs and table from Polywood provide a serene spot to soak up the sunshine.

Photo by William Kaner



"I can't think of a more idyllic location to have undertaken a renovation project," says William, who took surf breaks between demo and decoration.

Photo by William Kaner

This seafaring feeling is accentuated by the fact that all of the original interior millwork was crafted by a pair of local boat builders. "There's really not a single straight line in the house. Our approach was to preserve that bygone craftsmanship—like the bespoke paneling and cabinets—while making the space more livable for the modern day," says William.

In the once "clunky" upstairs bathrooms, William and Beth Anne replaced squat original vanities with Stanford 550 pedestal sinks from Barclay, and used wood salvaged from an impractical set of ceiling-mounted shelving units to build wall niches in other areas of the home. "The house—and

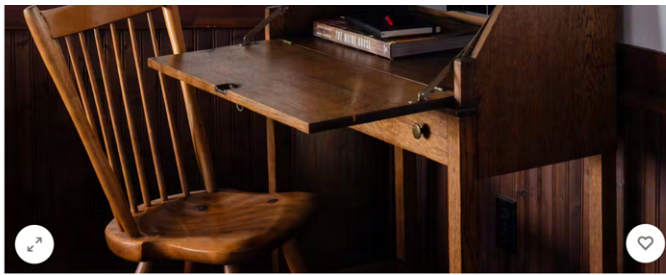
Fernandina Beach, for that matter—has a very classic New England feel to it. We wanted to not only lean into that aesthetic during the redesign, but also into the home's sense of ingenuity," William says.



In the entryway, a reclaimed light from Portland Architectural Salvage in Maine shares space with a surfboard suspended from the original shiplap ceiling.

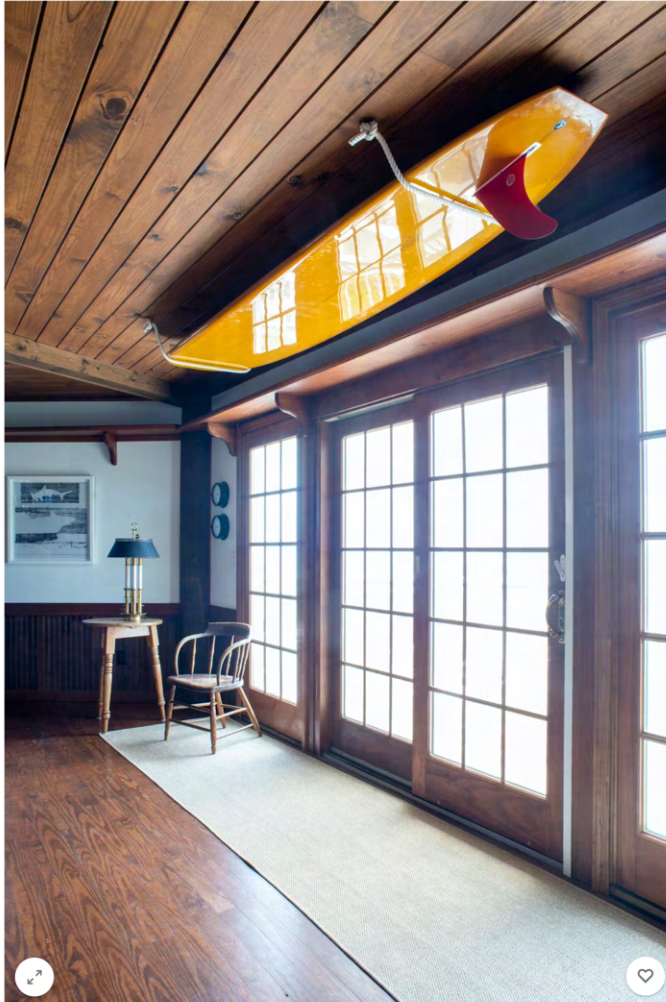
Photo by William Kaner





A painting of Katie's Light, which was made by a family friend and rediscovered during the renovation, hangs above an antique writing desk and chair in the living space.

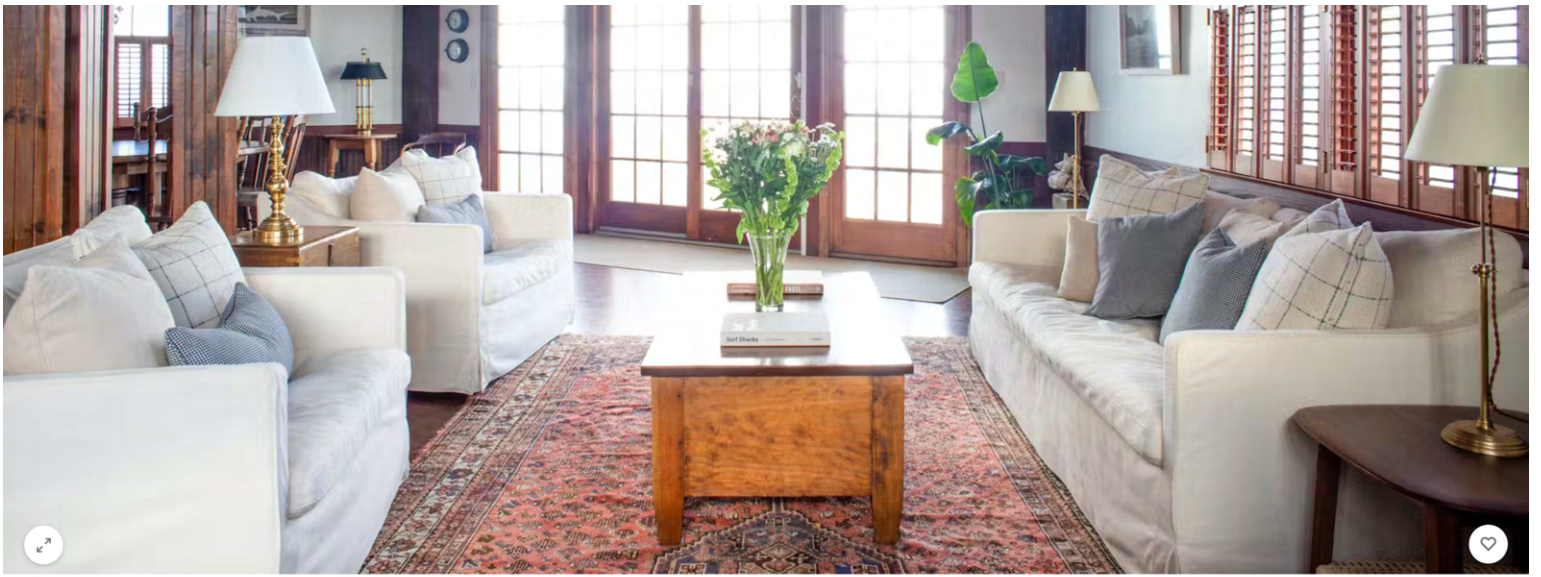
Photo by William Kaner



William and Beth Anne refrained from white-washing the interiors, choosing to embrace the moody hues of the original woodwork instead. A custom surfboard by Mike Whisnant adds a splash of color over a slider door, which is flanked by a pair of matching floor-to-ceiling windows.

Photo by William Kaner





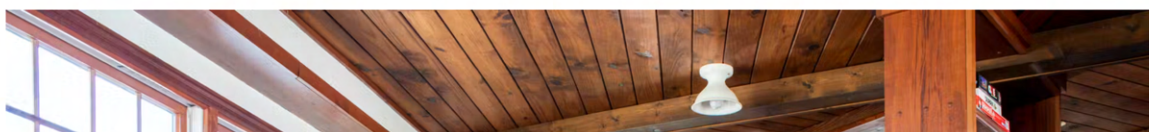
In the living space, a cloud-like Amelia sofa and matching chairs from Sixpenny interrupt the wood palette. Note the brass ceiling pendant, another score from Portland Architectural Salvage that was an old ship's spotlight.

Photo by William Kaner



Framed prints by William, who is a director and photographer, infuse the traditional space with moments of modernity. An antique trunk, topped with a Wyatt Table Lamp by Suzanne Kasler, has been repurposed as an end table.

Photo by William Kaner





A vintage runner and textiles from Evangeline Linens complete a lounge. "We worked with Schoolhouse Electric for a lot of the lighting," William says, noting the ceiling light and sconce.

Photo by William Kaner

"Growing up in this house was like something out of a storybook."

—Beth Anne Caples, resident



The living and dining spaces are split by an original spiral staircase.

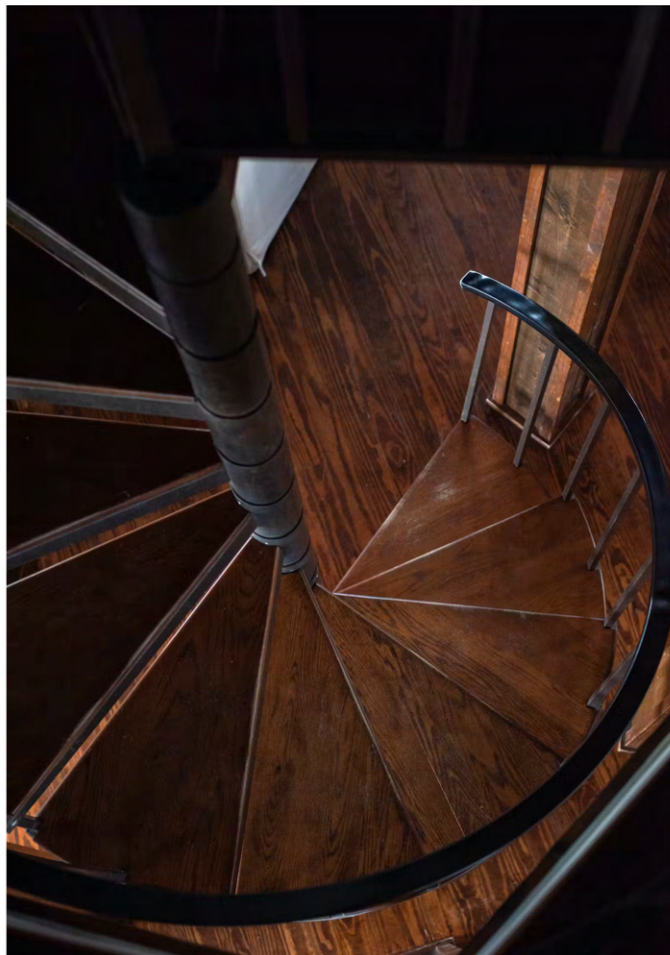
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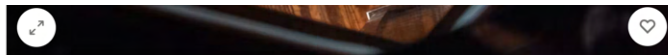




A stripped-back kitchen counter keeps the eye trained on the sea views beyond the shutters.

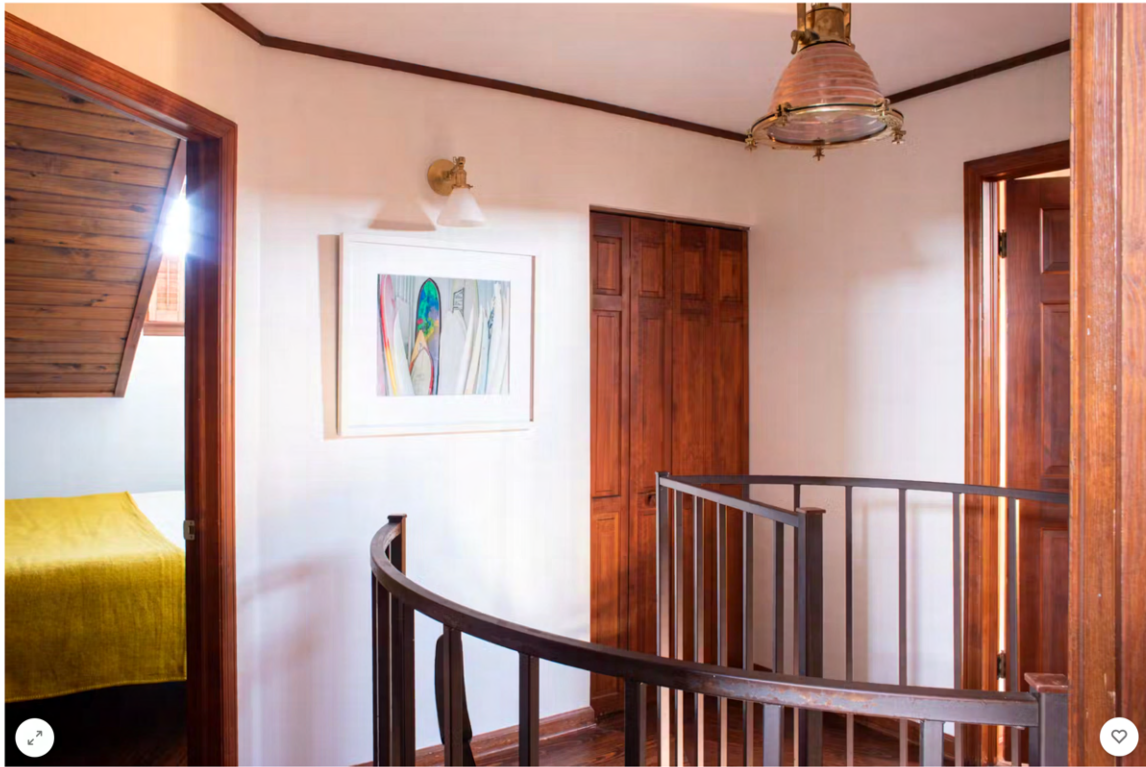
Photo by William Kaner





The stair's treads match the wood flooring, making its compact structure even less conspicuous within the plan.

Photo by William Kaner

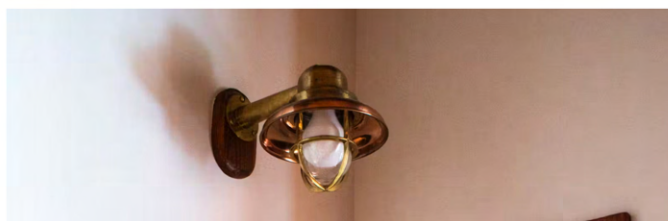


Upstairs, artwork by William is crowned by a Schoolhouse Electric sconce.

Photo by William Kaner

Antique boutiques in New England—chiefly in Maine—are flush with salty and salvageable fixtures and furnishings. Portland Architectural Salvage, an emporium brimming with unexpected vintage homewares, proved especially bountiful. "The owner, Alice Dunn, is extraordinary. She helped us source, among many things, a pair of lights that had come off of an old navy boat for one of the bathrooms," Beth Anne says. Custom bed frames, dressers, and end tables, which were built in the Shaker-style by Chilton Furniture, are topped with earthy pillows, blankets, and throws from Evangeline Linens. "Maine is a sourcing mecca," says William. "The items we've found there have a soulfulness that feels right at home in Katie's Light."

Levitating above its petite 50-by-100-foot lot, the home contrasts the more contemporary dwellings that dot the dunes. This, in addition to the structure's appearance in the 1988 film, *The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking*, have made it a kind of Amelia Island icon. Still, it might be the most humble home along its stretch of coast. "People expect the Florida coast to be entirely wealthy and modern," the couple say. "Friends are always so pleasantly surprised when they visit Katie's Light. It's incredibly lived-in and comfortable—very salt-of-the-earth."





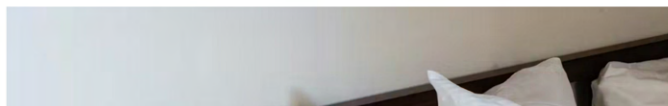
"All of the bathrooms needed a lot of work," says William, who, with Beth Anne, selected a Barclay Stanford 550 pedestal sink to replace a short, built-in vanity in the shared bathroom. A vintage mirror complements a caged sconce from Portland Architectural Salvage.

Photo by William Kaner



"Most modern beach houses seek to maximize water views from every room," says William. "This house is quirky because, in the bedrooms, you can't see out the little dormer windows at all. Beth Anne's parents wanted the home to look and feel like a real lighthouse; I really admire their commitment to the aesthetic." In a guest bedroom, a walnut bed from Design Within Reach is topped with bedding from Evangeline Linens.

Photo by William Kaner



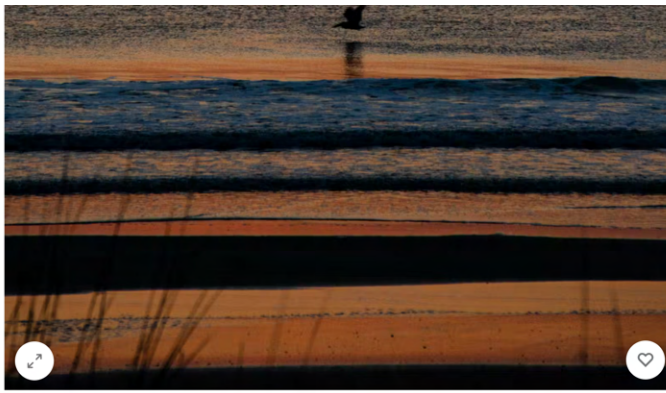


"We worked with Maine-based Chilton Furniture on a lot of custom pieces," the couple say. Pictured here are the Dune bed in walnut and a Mysa nightstand.

Photo by William Kaner

Although the island has drawn some high-profile attention in more recent years—its star-studded list of visitors include Oprah Winfrey and Kenny Chesney—Katie's Light and the quiet surf that surrounds it remain frozen in time for Beth Anne: "I never feel quite as good as I do when I'm in that house. You wake up in the morning to stunning natural light and you immediately want to go downstairs to the communal living spaces to watch the sunrise with family and friends. You forget your phone; you forget everything. Pelicans fly overhead, dolphins bob like buoys in the waves, and you just sort of breathe easier. It's incredibly dreamy."





"Mornings at the house are so serene. It's really easy to forget to scroll through social media in the mornings when views like this are waiting for you downstairs," says Beth Anne.

Photo by William Kaner

Katie's Light

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ARCHITECT [Robert Broadfoot](#)

LOCATION [Fernandina Beach, Florida](#)

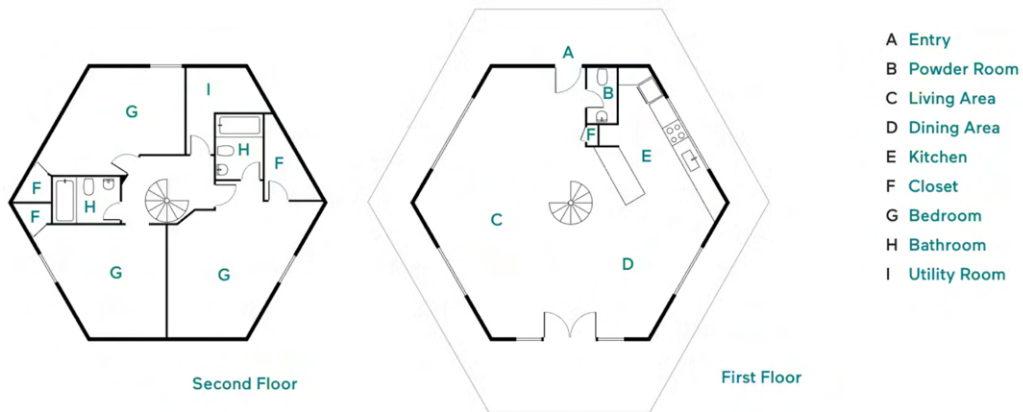


Illustration by Tim Lohnes

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Builder/General Contractor: [Zach Lowe of EK&B](#)

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