



# She Picks Sea glass by the Seashore

By Annie Sherman | Photography by Dave Hansen



## From all the weathered shingled homes on

Newport's Eustis Avenue, one brightly-colored house stands out. Entering Sue and Don Fitzpatrick's bungalow that they share with their two teenage sons, Alex and Sam, is to see a living space equal to the exterior's eye-catching color. The house, both inside and out, was intended to be their own little Caribbean oasis, with colors resembling the surf. And this sea glass jeweler who takes her inspiration from the sea wouldn't have it any other way.





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Sue found this three-faucet ceramic sink in a salvage yard while searching for an antique claw-foot tub. "At one point it was in a boys' school, so it did have another life that was kinda neat," she says. "When my boys were little, and I was a drill sergeant while getting teeth brushed, I could get them both to the sink at the same time. In those days it was a godsend because it gave me an extra five minutes! But we rarely ever use it together now."

In her office/studio, Sue torches fine sterling silver to create one of her wax seal pendants. The room is painted bright purple and teal "to make me feel like I'm on a beach in the Caribbean. But it doesn't work very well," she laughs.

The hearth is decorated with stones collected on multiple trips to Ocean Drive. "I could only put so many in my bike basket without making it hard to steer," she says, so she went out there every day, for a few months. "I was looking for specific shapes and thicknesses to fit together like a big jigsaw puzzle."

The photogenic Zofie relaxes in her colorful chair.

Found at Courtyards in Tiverton, this unique piece of artwork has many different uses in the Fitzpatrick household. Made of barn wood scraps and random antique hardware, plus candle holders, door knobs, a spindle from a stair railing and other found objects, Sue just thinks it's "pretty cool."



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"We all have particular chairs we sit in at our kitchen table – I have to sit in my purple chair, the boys have the green ones, and my husband takes whatever is left."

Sue made this lamp with stones collected from Ft. Getty in Jamestown, while waiting for her oldest son Alex during a sailing regatta. Her sea glass window in the background (bits of sea glass glued to the panes) adds dimension and color to the living room.

"The sea glass in the urn is my prize collection. I will never part with them, and it will never ever be jewelry. There are rare colors and shapes in there, really old neat stuff like bottle necks and insulator pieces, pinks and turquoise colors. I keep adding to it, but it's not very often I find a piece deserving to go in the urn."

Sue won this Rhode Island artist hand-crafted bench at a silent auction, and now it is a staging area for coats and boots next to the back door.



  
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