



COASTAL CONTENTMENT

UNITING A CHILDHOOD DREAM
WITH HER CURRENT LIFESTYLE,
A FLORIDA WOMAN'S MODERN
HOUSE EMBODIES THE
CASUAL ELEGANCE OF ITS
SHORELINE SETTING.

BY Kate Lorio | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Amy Lamb of NativeHouse Photography



SOUTHERN STYLE DECORATING

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When Christine Adkins started planning her home in Sarasota, Florida, she didn't rely much on design blogs or Pinterest boards to find her footing. Having fallen in love with farmhouse style years before, she let her instincts lead the way. "Back when I was babysitting as a kid, the mother of the house would have all these decorating magazines, and I was always flipping through them," says Christine. "I always knew that if I ever had the chance to build, it would be that style. So, it's been in my heart forever."

A clear vision made it easy for the semiretired nurse to fall into step with the team who brought her dream to fruition, which included architect John Cooney, builder Nautilus Homes, and designer Sybill Johnson of Blank Canvas Design Group. They honored Christine's desires for open spaces and casual living, constructing an airy abode that blends traditional farmhouse structure with timeless Floridian details. "The neighborhood is known for its modern homes," Christine says. "I threw this little beach house in there, but it works."

The open layout makes the home perfect for hosting family gatherings and visits with friends. "I really wanted to build something with enough room for everyone to come back to relax and exhale," says homeowner Christine Adkins. White cabinets and walls, high ceilings, and stone countertops in the kitchen reflect natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows in the breakfast nook.



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The great room is the hub of the home, boasting soaring vaulted ceilings and a screened porch that extends the living area from indoors to outdoors. “At night, if I’m sitting out on the porch, I can see the sunset,” she says. The dwelling’s welcoming, sunlit ambience makes it a perfect gathering point for Christine’s adult daughters and friends.

To ensure the furnishings fit Christine’s laid-back style, Sybill chose understated décor that joins coastal vibes with functional accessories like baskets and candles. “I like things I can use,” says Christine. “I have pretty things on shelves, but I like the suggestion that they are utilitarian.”

The duo pulled the neutral color palette from the shore, with white walls that reflect abundant natural light complemented by blue and sand accents. Lighter wooden details, from the home’s flooring to a dining table fashioned out of reclaimed cypress, suggest the tonal range of driftwood. Sybill selected new pieces to harmonize with Christine’s collection, such as a china cabinet she had owned for years. “She knew that she wanted to work around her antiques, but she wanted it to be comfortable for people to come in and sit down,” Sybill says.

A vintage bed lends coziness to the main bedroom, brimming with sunlight that streams in from the sitting area. "I wanted a place to curl up by a window to read," Christine says. Antique nightstands warm up the palette with rich wood tones. (Opposite, top) Wooden beams draw the eye to spacious heights in the heart of the home, the great room.



Although she is smitten with every inch of the house, Christine's bedroom remains her favorite space. "It's absolutely glorious in the morning, the way the sun comes in," she says of her private refuge. Bay windows grant tranquil views of swaying palms outside, fulfilling her only requisite for the room: plenty of natural light.

As emotionally grounding as the coastline and its cresting waves, the home has become a haven of serenity for Christine. "It's a place where I can exhale. It's comforting, and it envelops me," she says.



An enclosed porch connects to the great room for an expansive living area that allows Christine to enjoy the outdoors year-round. It also functions as an alternative office space.

