

COASTAL LIVING[®]

THE
MAGAZINE
FOR PEOPLE
WHO LOVE
THE COAST

5 beach cottages
you'll love



summer
vacations
coast to coast



full house

When guests threatened to overwhelm their small vacation retreat, this couple didn't turn visitors away; they bought a bigger house. Now their get-togethers can keep on growing.

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martha and Murray Whitaker bought a home in Seaside, Florida, and imagined years of family getaways. "I loved the emphasis on walking from place to place, the screened porches, the open-air concerts, the bookstore, the little restaurants—all of it," Martha says. But as the Whitakers grew to love their new house, so did their family, their daughters' guests, and their new neighbors. "It was truly a case of having more friends than house," Martha says. "We needed more room."

It was time to upgrade, but of all the homes in Seaside, only one other struck the Whitakers' fancy. "We didn't think it would ever go on the market," Martha says. "It was inviting and easy, and the French doors and big windows made the outdoors part of the interior experience."

When the owners decided to sell, the Whitakers jumped at the opportunity. "The house had been built

Martha admires the home's original details, such as the bright green shutters. "The first owners took a palmetto leaf to the paint store to have its color duplicated," she says. Inside, large-scale patterns, muted hues, and sea-grass rugs lend the rooms a casual, natural feel. Eclectic touches—such as the antique corbel hanging above modern chairs in the entry (opposite)—pop up in unexpected places.