

cocktailing. The glowing wood burner, complete with a thick-pile rug for lounging, provides the focal point.

In the Anglo-American coastal code for living, every surface has hosting potential. From an eclectic cluster of antique portraits, abstract still lifes, and needlepoint on the wall, to the neat functionality of a pegboard with hanging utensils; every object has its place. Dark, brooding wood panels or floorboards pair well with uplifting white walls, cozy sheepskin, worn tan leather, cheerful handmade pottery, a scrubbed pine table. Furniture and art become one, whether a stool hewed from a wonky tree trunk, or an interesting stone lugged directly from the beach. And yet a functionality is always present. A desk for writing letters; a row of wall-mounted, handily adjustable lamps for late-night bookworms. An arts and crafts bureau is home to a gathering of vases containing wildflowers, coral, and seashells, but the look is more cabinet of curiosities than mere beachcomber.

Maggie collections stay just the right side of clutter by contrasting them with calm moments for contemplation or day-dreaming. A chair positioned by the open window for an uninterrupted ocean view. The clean and crisp is undercut with the textural and storied. A healthy patina is encouraged, even celebrated, with weather-beaten wood or rusted metal chairs making their way inside from the garden.



Nantucket was famously the setting for Melville's *Moby Dick*, and the spirit of adventure lives on in the East Coast style, even if you are safely stowed inside your house. Like the timelessly endearing stripes of a Breton shirt, the nautical interior can be explored in fresh new ways while paying tribute to the fishing industries that continue to define the livelihood of the region. Avoid the gift shop souvenirs and instead look to the shipyard for inspiration—you cannot go far wrong. Coils of hardy rope, acoustic-improving cork, shiny brass rivets, and seaworthy wood paneling bring an authentic maritime flavor without crossing over into pastiche.

Hardware can be softened for dry land with the help of hand-stitched patchwork quilts, eye-catching rag rugs, and stacks of faded, mismatched pillows. Recycled textiles bring a low-key mood to heritage pieces: a Shaker chair, an iron bed frame, juxtaposing light and heavy for comfort and character. Reds, whites, and blues bring a nautical zing to otherwise serene spaces. Bold primary shades can be carefully mixed with textured neutrals and gently clashing patterns for a more insouciant take on a patriotic palette. Or take your colors into industrial territory with rust red, navy blue, and charcoal gray.

The East Coast beach house is a place of protection and retreat. Confront the wilder elements at play outside, if only to return to your safe haven. Shake off the sand or the rain and take refuge in the gently darkening room.



TOP LEFT Darker wood is softened with sheepskins and white-painted floorboards, as seen in Purveyor Design's East Hampton beach house. BOTTOM LEFT A cane headboard, paired with a woven lampshade. TOP RIGHT With the ocean at your cabin door, a boat is all you need. BOTTOM RIGHT Furniture as sculpture. Leave space for special pieces to shine.