

Triangle

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DESIGN & DECOR[®]



Coastal Calm



This view of the oceanfront home shows how well the new octagonal shaped addition, formerly an open corner porch, blends in with the home's existing architecture.



Serene colors and sophisticated details make this vacation home on Bald Head Island a calming retreat for one Raleigh family.

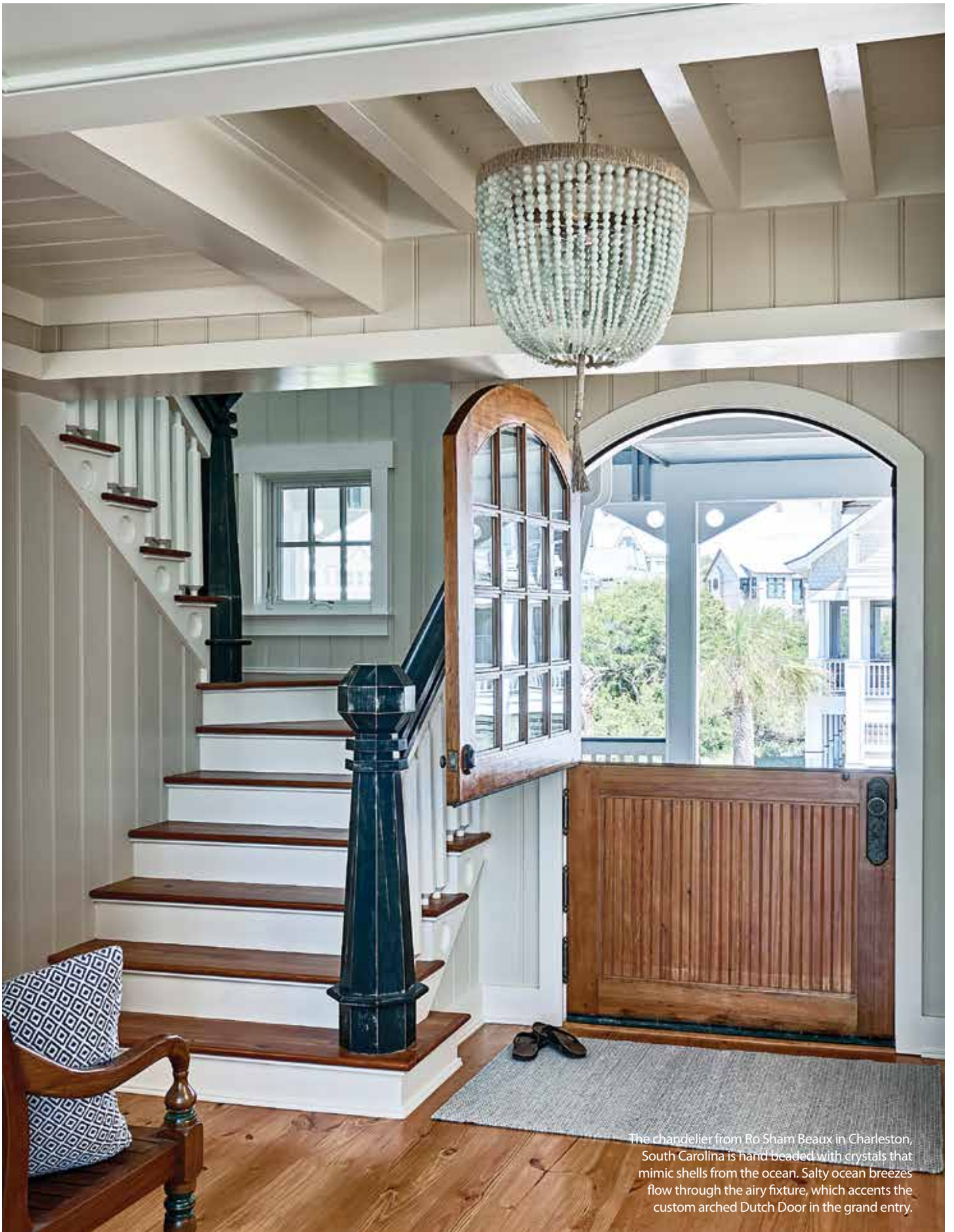
By Nancy Atkinson
Photography by Dustin Peck

Each summer for 12 years, the Raleigh couple walked down a stretch of beach on Bald Head Island with their children, dreaming of the day they would have their own vacation home on the island. They fell in love with one special house, which they named the “Dragon House,” for the charming weather vane that graced its roof. Two years ago, when they began actively searching to buy, the Dragon House came on the market. The couple jumped at the chance to own it.

When it was first built in 1997, the home sat all alone on the southern stretch of the barrier island. Formerly known as the Texas Sea Ranch, it was designed by award-winning architect Chuck Dietsche and described as “a romantic jewel box of native wood and stone.” The home’s original design featured walls and ceilings of unfinished wood, a stone fireplace, and actual trees used as structural support columns in the home’s living room and foyer.

Home to two previous owners, its last residents painted the natural wood walls and ceilings in vibrant hues of Country French yellow, green, and orange with strong teal and red accents. They replaced the original tree trunks with lighthouse-shaped columns painted teal, creating an eclectic farmhouse feel.

The family loved the home’s location and its original architecture, but they knew changes were needed to make it their own. Their goal, in addition to adding another bedroom and laundry room for their guests, was to restore the integrity of the home’s original architecture and allow it to shine.



The chandelier from Ro Sham Beaux in Charleston, South Carolina is hand beaded with crystals that mimic shells from the ocean. Salty ocean breezes flow through the airy fixture, which accents the custom arched Dutch Door in the grand entry.

The dining room table was handmade to look like distressed wood from the sea. The soft upholstered chairs were given durable fabric for maintenance-free wear.



They assembled a team of the best designers and builders to help them achieve their goal, bringing in architect Cothran Harris, builder Parker Dudley, and interior designers Vicky Serany and Julia Ross from Southern Studio Interior Design.

One challenge facing the team was the new addition, which Harris seamlessly integrated into the home's existing architecture. The logistics of building and designing on an island presented another obstacle — getting to the island meant taking a ferry, and transportation to the house was only allowed by golf cart.

“We had to think ahead, being efficient and organized,” Serany says. “If you're missing a pillow or if anything breaks and needs to be repaired, that could mean extra time you just don't have.”

But the biggest challenge may have been in the home's main living area, where the new owners wanted the lighthouse-shaped columns removed. “This was a big decision because removing them meant adding steel beams to the ceiling for support,” Serany explains. “It was worth the effort because it opened the living space and made a huge difference.”

A new color palette was chosen to bring the serenity of the natural environment inside, drawing inspiration from the gorgeous views of the beach outside every window. New mosaic tiles around the fireplace and existing countertops in the kitchen helped dictate the new colors. “The kitchen granite features

greens, blues, and tans,” Serany says. “It looks like the ocean, so we kept it.”

Careful thought was given to which elements of the home's interior should stay and which should go. “We wanted to do everything with respect for the home, keeping elements that reflect the existing structure and the coastal lifestyle — informal, casual, and carefree — without looking too beachy or themed.”

The family's lifestyle drove most of the decision-making. In the kitchen, the island was completely reworked to add seating and make it more functional. The high quality, custom-made cabinets were carefully removed, repainted, and reinstalled.

“The owners wanted dining room chairs to be very comfortable,” Serany says. “They sit for hours to play games and do puzzles. We used durable fabric throughout so they won't have to worry about maintenance.”

The sleeping quarters were given special attention, with extra space built in for children and guests. The bunk beds in the children's room were custom made to take advantage of the views in an unusually shaped room. The upstairs guest room has an additional twin bed built-in on top of the existing bed, and the new guest room has a built-in window seat that doubles as a twin bed.

Custom, handcrafted touches were added throughout the home. The dining room and coffee tables were handmade to look

Bottom: Calm neutrals welcome you into the home's main hall, with earthy accents and ivory enamel vintage pendant lights. The console was original to the home and adds a layer of rustic warmth.

Right: The kitchen was repainted a fresh, modern white to match the existing subway tiles and the island was re-designed for added seating.

A streamlined oven hood replaced the existing oversized Country French hood and two new cabinets were installed in the original design. Pale blue-gray globe pendant lights highlight the island and mirror the ocean.





The living room, now free of its oversized columns, opens to the dining room and kitchen to create an open, relaxed space. The interior color scheme was inspired by the amazing views of ocean and dunes outside the full-length surrounding windows.







like natural distressed wood from the sea. The foyer lighting from Ro Sham Beaux in Charleston, South Carolina, was hand-beaded to mimic shells from the ocean. “The details are subtle, and that’s what gives them great impact.”

Some of the furniture came with the house, passed down from the original owners, including the iron bed and upholstered chairs, which Serany had reupholstered in the master bedroom, foyer table, and sea chests.

“Keeping pieces of this home’s original history was important,” she says. “Layering in old and new gives this home its personality and character and makes it feel warm.”

The new owners love their new home, calling it a magical place for their family — the calming retreat they’ve always wanted.



Top: The upstairs guest room features an awning window that opens into the great room downstairs. A built-in bunk over the king size bed features a nautical rope railing that adds character to these extra sleeping quarters.

Right: Large boat cleats serve as the ladder to the upper bunk in the upstairs bedroom for a touch that is sturdy and functional, yet also whimsical and unexpected.

Architect Cothran Harris seamlessly blended this guest room addition into the home's existing architecture. The room's custom window seat serves double-duty as a twin bed.





The outdoor porch was furnished to compliment the amazing views. Neutral furniture reflects the dunes and sea grass while deep blue pillows echo shades of sky and sea. It's the perfect spot to enjoy morning coffee or afternoon happy hour.



Opposite top: Serene shades of misty teal and cool ocean blue accent this room of custom bunk beds designed to accommodate visiting guests. Custom touches include built-in reading lights and recessed niches.
Opposite left: The master bathroom is now bathed in natural light. Golden tiles and dark cabinets were replaced with pale wood accents and a sleek polished nickel chandelier to highlight the modern, freestanding tub and maximize the ocean views.
Opposite right: The master bedroom was remade into a soothing retreat. Bedside lamps of handblown glass from Tracy Glover Studio top rustic ivory end tables and frame the king size bed, which, along with the upholstered chairs, are from the original home.

“The team envisioned a space that allows you to escape, relax, and reenergize — a home with casual sophistication,” Serany says. “There will be many memories made in this home, where they will sit and reconnect with their kids and all their worries will wash away. That gives me satisfaction; it’s why we do what we do.”◆