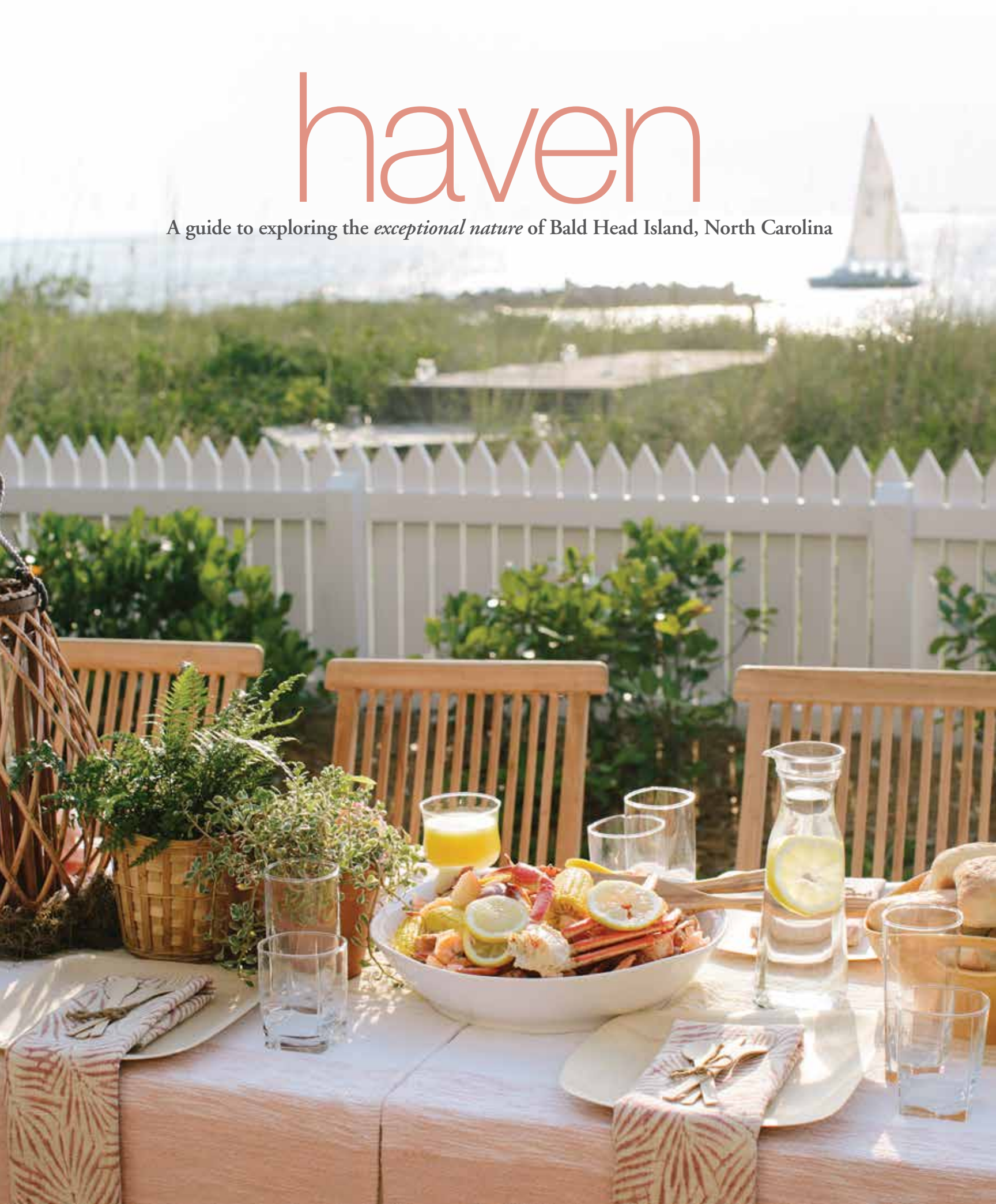


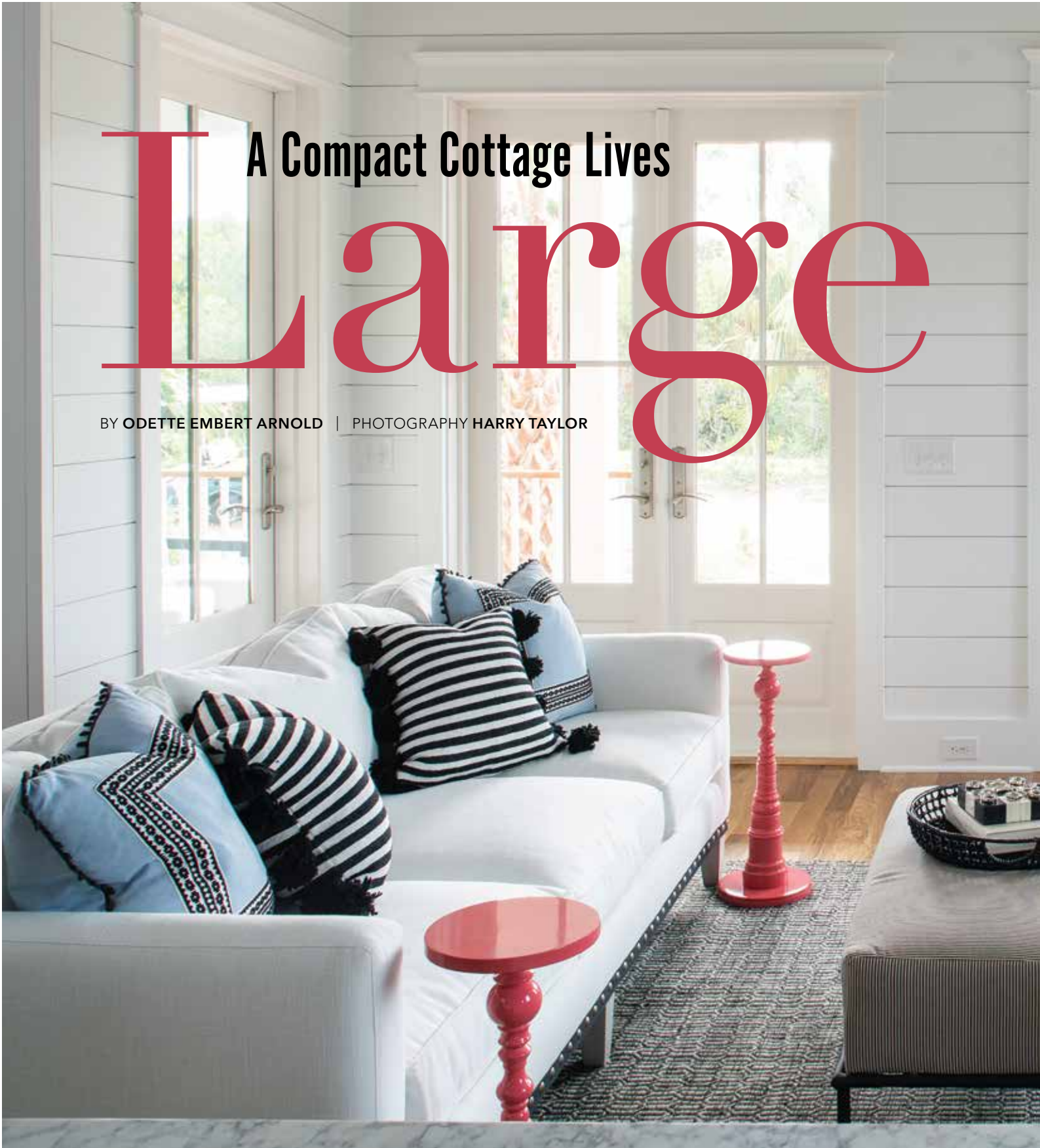
haven

A guide to exploring the *exceptional nature* of Bald Head Island, North Carolina



A Compact Cottage Lives Large

BY ODETTE EMBERT ARNOLD | PHOTOGRAPHY HARRY TAYLOR





Sometimes bigger just isn't better. In the Henry cottage at Cape Fear Station, clever design solutions pack a big punch in a relatively small space.



Charming, Inside and Out

Traditional and lovely on the outside, the newest Inspired Home in the *Southern Living* Inspired Community conveys an unexpected, contemporary freshness on the inside. The home's overall black-and-white color scheme is immediately established on the exterior, most notably with the black doors and window casings. The front porch, a critical feature of all Bald Head Island homes, continues the modern feel with striking black porch furniture made of recycled bottles and pillows from Charlotte textiles designer Laura Park.

Serany describes the home's style as "Carolina Boho," a casual, comfortable vibe that provides a modern take on a traditional beach house. She said Whitney Blair's construction design team took the coastal Bald Head Island aesthetic and added contemporary elements and fixtures that give it a fresh, modern look. From that base, her firm established a black and white foundational color scheme and added splashes of bold hues throughout.

The abstract paintings by artist Mary Zio are a case in point. Strategically placed for maximum impact, their bright colors provide plenty of pop, as well as a rich palette for other design choices. A captivating coral, for example, makes a definitive statement on a pair of small lacquered tables in the living room, as well as on cleverly utilized drum ottomans tucked under a side table. These provide additional seating when needed, as do the dining room's upholstered host and hostess chairs, trimmed in the same eye-catching shade.

"The key to smart space design is incorporating pieces that do double duty," said Serany. "Every piece should have a

Measuring an unassuming 1,800 square feet, the latest *Southern Living* Inspired Home in Bald Head Island's Cape Fear Station neighborhood makes a rather big impression.

"If I could use only one word to describe this house, I honestly think it would have to be fabulous," said Jeff Sanderson. His company, Whiney Blair Custom Homes, teamed with Beaufort, SC-based Allison Ramsay Architects on this featured cottage, as well as all other homes in the *Southern Living* Inspired Community in Cape Fear Station.

Vicky Serany, whose Southern Studio Interior Design firm has also left its signature throughout the community, said the home's appeal is not just in how it looks, but in how it lives. "I think people respond so favorably to this home because it is full of delightful surprises," she said. "The design team incorporated so many ideas that make it feel much bigger than it actually is."

Bald Head Island Limited CEO Chad Paul agreed. "Every space in this house is utilized and unique features are tucked away throughout," he noted.

purpose, and even better if it has multiple uses.”

Serany points out that fabric choices are also extremely important in a beach house. “The black-and-white, hand-blocked sandpiper print on the window treatments is our absolute favorite fabric,” she said. “It adds just the right amount of whimsy and sets the tone for the black-and-white theme.”

But fabric choices aren’t just about color. “There is always the wet bathing suit, sandy feet element,” she said. “Being here is meant to be relaxing, and we try to choose fabrics you don’t have to worry about.” So, while the white sofa in the living room seems like a brave choice, it works because it’s upholstered with an indoor-outdoor performance fabric.

The master suite’s bed is another nod in the easy-care category. The entire piece is slipcovered, including the headboard and frame, so it can easily be washed or even replaced.

“Creating a home with interest involves a lot of layering and mixing and adding some of the unexpected,” summarized Serany. The sleekness of the lacquered pieces, for example, contrasts with the coastal, driftwood feel of the cerused oak dining table and bar cart. On the walls, shiplap runs both vertically and horizontally in the main living spaces, and its warm, wooden touch plays nicely against the cool ceramic tile backsplash in the kitchen.

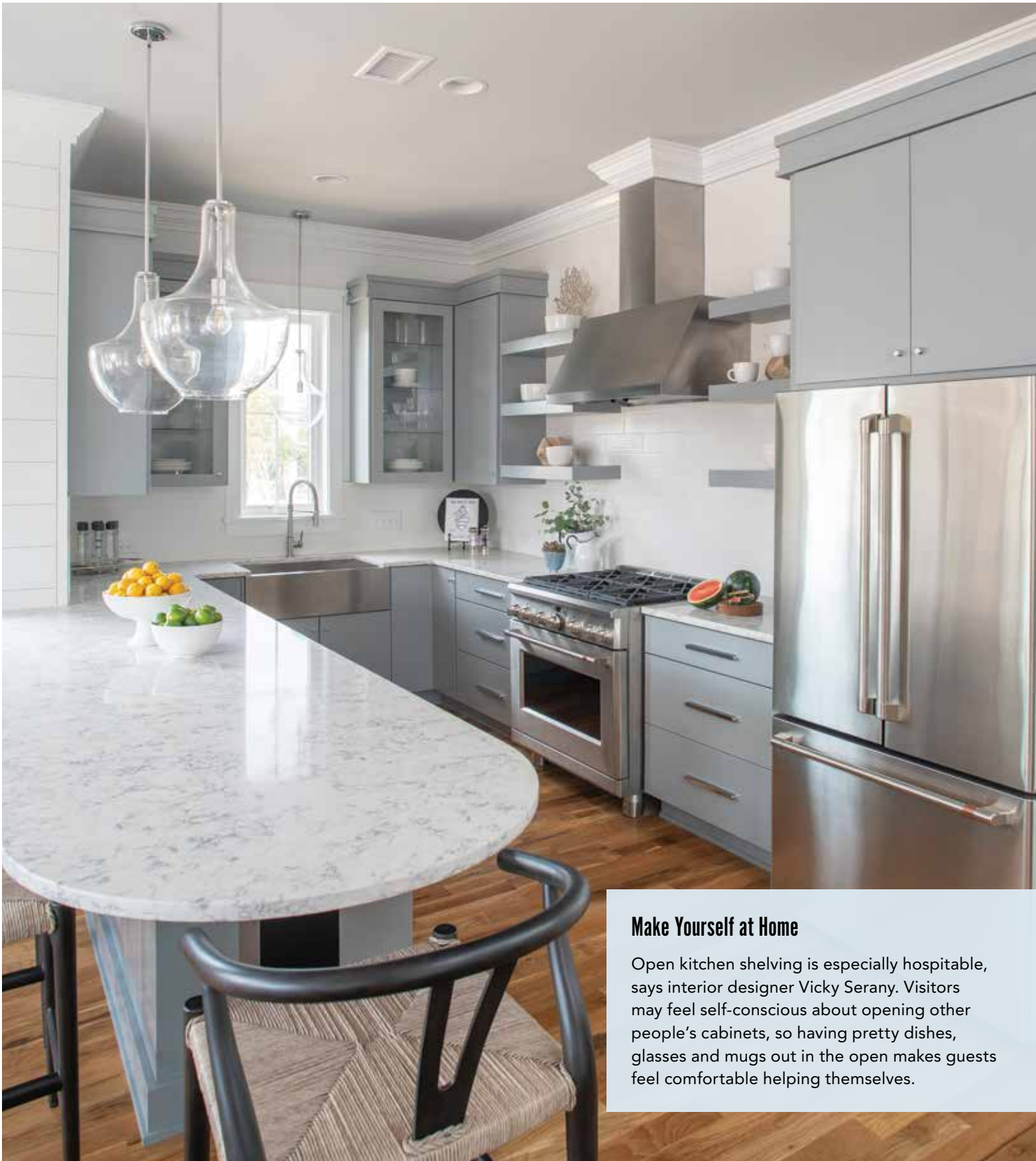
“Anytime we build a home in the *Southern Living* Inspired Community, it’s all about the details,” Jeff concurred. “We always start from scratch, so each and every home is unique.”

For this Inspired Home, an efficient use of space, a balanced blend of traditional and modern, and a color scheme that pops with personality all harken back to his earlier assessment of the home. In a word: fabulous.



Everything in Its Place

A beachy take on a utilitarian mudroom, this little nook off the back entrance is the perfect place to shed shoes, bags or sandy beach gear and store them so they’re ready for the next outing. The cushioned bench and classic striped pillows are proof positive that practical can still be pretty.



Make Yourself at Home

Open kitchen shelving is especially hospitable, says interior designer Vicky Serany. Visitors may feel self-conscious about opening other people's cabinets, so having pretty dishes, glasses and mugs out in the open makes guests feel comfortable helping themselves.



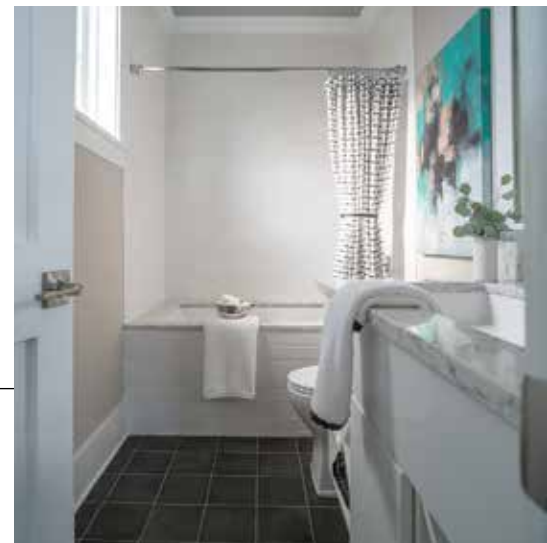
Table for Eight, Please

While an open concept design, the home has a clearly defined dining room that is surprisingly generous. It accommodates a large table that provides plenty of seating for meals, as well as for games, puzzles and lingering conversation. Cute and compact, the well-stocked bar cart tucked at the foot of the stairs is easily accessible from the kitchen or dining room.



En Suite Is Oh, So Sweet

The cottage's layout provides for flexible sleeping arrangements and plenty of privacy. The downstairs master bedroom (top) features a fully slipcovered bed. Each of the two upstairs bedrooms also has an en suite bathroom.





Now You See It, Now You Don't

In a house filled with clever design, the suspended hidden bunk is perhaps the most delightful—and useful—feature. When not needed, it tucks discreetly out of view. If your guest should bring a guest, it's ready and waiting. Abundant natural light also makes it an inviting spot to stretch out and read. 🌿