

Waterfront Wonders

Explore our favorite style ideas from these charming coastal cottages doused with vibrant colors.



When it comes to candy-colored exteriors, charming architectural details, and idyllic storybook neighborhoods, there's no place that suggests cottage living quite like the communities found along the coastline. We look to beachside communities like The Cottages at Ocean Isle Beach in North Carolina—nestled between Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Wilmington, North Carolina—for those classic cottage charms that welcome summer with a sunny, “hello.”

Mark Ballard, the chief marketing consultant for

The Cottage Building Company, says the camaraderie and style found in their thoughtfully planned neighborhood is no happy accident. “From the wide, welcoming front porches to the common spaces, everything was designed to facilitate interaction and create a sense of community,” he explains.

These charming coastal cottages hold an endless supply of design inspiration. And while you may not feel led to paint your landlocked abode a bright shade of tangerine or teal, there are plenty of cottage-style elements to draw inspiration from in these waterfront retreats. 📍

Arts and Crafts-inspired cottage homes situated along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway beneath old-growth oak canopies encourage a sense of nostalgia and beauty. (Right, from top) Nothing says cottage style like a large, welcoming front porch. A blue-painted planked wood ceiling lined with fans provides the perfect shield of protection for a balmy summer day. The blue ceiling is traditional of Southern porches but has made its way north and continues to be introduced to new generations. Craftsman-style columns flank this friendly front porch lined in cheerful potted plants.





Cottage dwellers in the city rarely see the visual delights that are the candy-colored exteriors found in abundance along the coast. While you may not opt to paint the entire exterior of your home a vibrant hue, try incorporating color in small-scale elements—like the front door, patio furniture or accessories, or even plants—that pack a punch of personality. (Opposite) Landscaping is an easy way to add color to your home's exterior. A rich palette of blooms and lush greens can instantly bring your curb appeal from drab to fab.

TEXT BY KATIE WOOD
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 THE COTTAGES AT OCEAN ISLE BEACH