

HOUSE OF BLUES

Designer Andrew Howard reveals fresh new ways to decorate with tried-and-true blue in this Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, home

SHANNON AND ERIC RAGATZ “CROSSED THE DITCH.” That’s the term used by Jacksonville, Florida, locals when city people move about 20 miles away to the beaches across the Intracoastal Waterway (aka “the ditch”). “We were married at the beach and always planned to raise our children here,” explains Eric, a lawyer. But it took 10 years for the Ragatzes to find the perfect spot to build in Ponte Vedra Beach—a preppy, family-friendly town. That decade of searching gave the couple plenty of time to plan their dream house. “We wanted a shingled cottage with contemporary coastal flair,” says Eric. “Because we plan to be here for a lifetime, my wife wanted a one-story.” At first, the Ragatzes didn’t know exactly how to achieve their beachy vision. All they knew was they didn’t like wimpy colors or overly formal rooms. Designer Andrew Howard helped them create an energetic home using blues in every shade, layered patterns in various scales, and textures for oomph. Here, Howard shares his secrets to decorating with this favorite Southern hue.



BY SARAH LATTA | PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAUREY W. GLENN | STYLING BY HEATHER CHADDUCK HILLEGAS



BRIGHT IDEA:

A stormy **blue ceiling** adds more drama than the usual white.

Jazz up a matching dining set by adding wing chairs in indoor/outdoor fabric—Amazing Maze by Schumacher. A glass “coral” chandelier and fearless painting seal the unconventional deal.



THE PALETTE

- 1. **LIGHT GRAY:** (walls) Alaskan Husky (1479); benjaminmoore.com
- 2. **BLUE GRAY:** (trim) Boothbay Gray (HC-165); benjaminmoore.com



BRIGHT IDEA

Hang **sheers** to let the sunshine pour in during the day without sacrificing privacy at night.

THE LIVING ROOM

Kick traditional Americana up a notch with a palette of red, white, blue—and camel.

Even the room's patterns riff on familiar American prints like the chairs' gingham-inspired cushions and the quiltlike sofa pillows. Mod, sharp-lined furnishings bring a sophisticated counterpoint to the cheery color scheme.

CHAIR FABRIC: Mark Alexander's Tashkent Indigo and the **RECTANGULAR SOFA PILLOW FABRIC:** Cowtan & Tout's Philmore in Red Tulip, both available through DCOTA; 954/921-7575. **STOOLS:** Luna Raffia Ottomans; madegoods.com



THE PALETTE

1. **NAVY:** Commadore (SW 6524); sherwin-williams.com
2. **CAMEL:** Popcorn (9-28); prattandlambert.com
3. **RED:** National Red (RL2212); ralphlaurenpaint.com



THE PALETTE

1. **LIGHT BLUE:** Pale Powder (204); us.farrow-ball.com
2. **WHITE:** (cabinets) White Diamond (2121-60); benjaminmoore.com
3. **YELLOW:** Daisy (SW 6910); sherwin-williams.com

THE KITCHEN

Don't be afraid to build an entire space around a tile that captures the pale blue of ocean waves.

Painting the cabinets a soft white (and choosing durable white Caesarstone counters) lets the backsplash be the focus.

PENDANTS: Henry Industrial Hanging Light with White Shade; circalighting.com
TILE: 3 x 6 Urban Hues Glass Tile in Cloud; southcypress.com
BARSTOOLS: Dual Seat Counter Bench; leeindustries.com, upholstered in JANUS et Cie's Bloom in Vert, available through DCOTA; 954/921-7575

BRIGHT IDEA

Punchy **yellow floral slipcovers** dial up the energy of a subtle palette.



BRIGHT IDEA

Don't overlook the ceiling! Think of it as a fifth wall for a **bold pattern** or shade.

THE MASTER CLOSET

Go for broke with color in a small space.

"I wanted a closet that felt like something no one had ever seen," says Shannon. Howard responded by turning the 175-square-foot space into a glamorous, glossy cobalt dressing den. He also fit the closet with a window for natural light (the most flattering kind) and plenty of storage like built-in cabinetry and an island that provides space for folding clothes and storing accessories.

WALLPAPER: Schumacher's Flame in Cha-Cha, available through DCOTA; 954/921-7575. **CHANDELIER:** Markos Hanging Shade in Polished Nickel; circaighting.com



THE PALETTE

- 1. COBALT:** (cabinets) Newburyport Blue (HC-155); benjaminmoore.com
- 2. CORAL:** Animated Coral (SW 6878); sherwin-williams.com
- 3. AQUA:** Nephrite (22-6); prattandlambert.com

THE PALETTE

- 1. BLUE GRAY:** (trim) Marina Gray (1599); benjaminmoore.com
- 2. INDIGO:** Seven Seas (560D-6); behr.com
- 3. LIGHT GRAY:** (walls) Pebble Beach (1597); benjaminmoore.com



THE MASTER BEDROOM

Create a hotel-style escape by enveloping the room with textiles.

A velvet headboard takes up the majority of the wall. "There is nothing more comfortable for sitting up in bed than this," says Howard. The bamboo silk rug echoes the headboard's plushness, while the gauzy draperies and bohemian, block-print bedding contrast with the dramatic coffered ceiling.

CURTAIN FABRIC: Mark Alexander's Trip Line Wildflower, available through DCOTA; 954/921-7575. **BEDDING:** kerrycassill.com



BRIGHT IDEA

In the same fabric, disparate **window treatments** read as a pair.



BRIGHT IDEA

These 1970s scalloped tables used to be yellow, but white paint brought them up to date.



THE PALETTE

1. **TURQUOISE:** (trim) Peacock Blue (2049-40); [benjaminmoore.com](#)
2. **PINK:** Primrose (RL2133); [ralphlaurenpaint.com](#)
3. **MINT GREEN:** (ceiling) Forget Me Not (2049-60); [benjaminmoore.com](#)

THE GIRL'S ROOM

Increase the visual impact of a bed by placing it against a boldly papered wall.

To complement the tie-dye-like print, Howard matched the window trim and molding to the wall-paper's turquoise shade. A mint green ceiling softens the transition from bright wall to ceiling. Soft-raspberry bedding offers an elegant alternative to hot pink. Simple Roman shades and white furniture balance out the vivid color and pattern.

WALLPAPER: Scion's Shibori in Lagoon, available through ADAC; 404/231-3938



BRIGHT IDEA

This resin coffee table weighs less than 5 pounds! The kids can move it themselves to create more play space.



THE PALETTE

1. **CHARTREUSE:** (ceiling) Citronella (SW 6915); [sherwinwilliams.com](#)
2. **WHITE:** (trim) Calm (OC-22); [benjaminmoore.com](#)
3. **TEAL:** (cabinet fronts) Wilmington Spruce (754); [benjaminmoore.com](#)

THE PLAYROOM

Design a kid-friendly space where guests of all ages can gather.

The teal and chartreuse of the botanical wallpaper guides the palette. A wall of built-ins with vibrant teal fronts and plush window seats atop open shelving frees up floorspace for a stylish adult-size sofa and chairs.

WALLPAPER: Garden City in Bustle; [missprint.co.uk](#). **CHAIRS:** Major in Alloy White and **COFFEE TABLE:** River Stone Cocktail Table; [mgbwhome.com](#)