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**BOLT
OF**

Blue

A classic shingle-style home is given a touch of coastal flair with a timeless palette and curated accents.

GREAT OUTDOORS. Because the house is in Florida, the outdoor spaces get used throughout the year. Though it also features the blue-and-white palette found in the house, the styling of this outdoor living space was left in ed more by the natural surroundings and not so much meant to tie in with the home's interior.



Just because a home is new, that doesn't mean it can't have a classic style and feel.

When the design firm of Andrew Howard Interior Design joined this project, where a new home was built on the site of the client's former home, blending old and new was a major design goal.

"There were some pieces that had been in the home before and some things that she got from her mother, other than that, we had a pretty blank slate," Andrew says. "The only real directive was for comfortable spaces that made the house feel like it had always been there." The firm achieved this by using a classic coastal blue-and-white palette both indoors and out, cleverly mixing patterns and stylishly blending furnishings in a variety of finishes.

"Blue is such a natural fit for a coastal home,"

Andrew says. "Varying shades can be seen throughout the house, and it makes each room feel unique."

NORTHERN INFLUENCE. Like the interior, the exterior of the home is dressed in blue and white, which gives it a classic coastal feel. The shade used for the shutters was influenced by shutter designer Andrew Howard saw on a trip to Sag Harbor, the became a touch of The Hamptons in Florida.

BATHERD TOGETHER. A curated rather than grab-bag look was the goal for the home's furnishings. Instead of complete sets, the designers opted to use a mix of pieces, the furniture's individual and new acquisitions in a variety of finishes for a collected look.



CLASSIC COMBINATION

When it came time to select a color palette to build the design around, the choice was an easy one. "Blue is such a natural fit for a coastal home," Andrew says. "Varying shades can be seen throughout the house, and it makes each room feel unique. It is a natural palette for me not only in coastal homes, but it is really applicable in almost any climate because nothing is more classic and timeless than blue and white. Trust decorators when they tell you it is never going out of style."

Shades from powdery blues to intense indigo are found in nearly every space in the home, even extending outdoors. These shades were carefully and purposefully selected to best fit each room. For instance, walls and ceilings in a bedroom were painted a deep blue while the airy dining room was finished with a faded blue walling.



[TOP] BONUS ROOM: When an oversized shower was shrunk down, room was made for this small work nook, the perfect hideaway for doing homework or working on a laptop. The small space is given serious presence thanks to a boldly printed wall paper.

[TOP LEFT] GOING GREEN: A departure from the rest of the home, this guest room is decorated in shades of green. This color choice was made because the room is separate from the public spaces in the house and so provides guests with a feeling of staying in a secluded retreat within the larger house.

[TOP RIGHT] DARKEN UP: Blue paint shades were selected for each room based on the amount of natural light the room receives. Dark rooms like this one were decorated with darker blues to make them feel cozy, as opposed to being painted with light colors in an effort to lighten them up.



"Try to use shades that reflect the amount of natural light the room gets," Andrew says. "People always think a somberly dark room should be painted a light color to lighten it up. I actually think the opposite is true. A dark room painted a light color will always feel stark, and something big will not feel right about it. I like to embrace the darkness and make it feel cozy with a darker color. The same is true for a light-filled space. Embrace the light with a lighter color that allows the light to bounce around the room."

One room deliberately bucks this trend and is instead decorated in shades of green. "The green room is a great space for guests and is probably the most used guest room," Andrew says. "We wanted to make it feel different because it is not part of the public section of the house. What guest wouldn't love festing teen-ty leaf curtains?"

MIX IT UP

Just as the home features a variety of blues, it's also decorated in a range of patterns. From sweet floral to popping abstract to precise geometric, curtains, furnishings, walls and more are decked out in vibrant patterns. Sometimes all are at a play in one space, creating a contemporary style that takes careful consideration to successfully achieve.

FLOOR SHOW Rugs bring pattern and texture into the room. Size is an important consideration when selecting one. "The biggest mistake that can be made is to order a rug that is too small," Andrew says. "A general rule of thumb is to order a rug that all or most of the furniture fits on."



"I think the rules for pattern mixing have been recently thrown out of most designers' windows," Andrew says. "Nowadays it really is anything goes, as long as the color families are either the same or complementary of each other. Before pattern mixing was OK as long as the scale of the prints wasn't the same. I would start with a big scale, and that would most likely be the curtains, then shift to something smaller on a chair (maybe a stripe or check), and then go to solids. [But] that rule no longer applies. If you want to pattern mix and are not super-confident in your abilities, start with trying to mix up patterns on your pillows, and then when you get comfortable, start moving on to bigger things."

A bigger thing might be wallpaper, which is used throughout the home, with prints large and small. Scale was a major contributor in determining which print would be used in which space, for example bedrooms or a small office nook. "... smaller-scale patterns work better in larger rooms, and bigger-scale things work great in small rooms," Andrew says. "I like pulling a trim color from the paper and not doing white trim in a lot of cases. I think it adds an extra level of detail."



(ABOVE) GRAPHIC DESIGN. Vividly patterned wallpapers in a variety of blues are used throughout the house. Select prints based on the size of the room you're decorating, Andrew advises. Smaller-scale patterns work best in larger rooms, while larger-scale patterns work best in smaller rooms.



LIGHT PLAY. Softer blue shades were selected for the rooms that get the most light, to allow the light to bounce around the room. Using varying shades throughout the house also gives each space a distinct personality and style.

"One thing I love about blue is
**it pairs SO NATURALLY with
just about any color.**"



“I try to use shades that reflect the amount of natural light the room gets,” Andrew says. “People always think a normally dark room should be painted a light color to lighten it up. I actually think the opposite is true.”



(ABOVE) WINDOW DRESSING: Drapery is used throughout the house to add vibrant patches of pattern, in addition to serving the traditional function of covering the windows. To compensate for the home's high ceilings, the curtains were hung right below the ceilings instead of just above the French doors. Hanging the curtains too low can bring the room down and make the space feel squatty, says Andrew.

FIT AND FINISH

The furnishings, fixtures and accessories used throughout the home are the final touches that bring this home to life. Curated is a mixture of old and new pieces, the rooms brist with a carefully curated collection that's anything but cookie-cutter.

“I never want things to feel like a set,” Andrew says. “There is nothing a designer dislikes more than someone wanting to reuse a bedroom set they bought off the floor of some furniture store when they graduated from college, and all the wood's match and styles are the same. I like things to feel collected. I'd like when all

the woods in a room match or furniture is all the same fabric.”

For the lighting, the crowning touch to each room, function and then style are the major considerations. Just because you love chandeliers does not mean one will fit in your room with an 8-foot ceiling,” Andrew says. “Before you buy any light, look carefully at the size of it and how many bulbs it has. Make sure the bulb count is enough to light the room and that the fixture won't hit you in the head when you walk under it.”

Then to such careful selections, this new home is ready to welcome family and friends with classic warmth and timeless style. **Q**

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