

# Beach Chic

*Known for her fearless use of color, Houston designer Katie Scott creates a vacation retreat for her brother and sister-in-law that breaks all the rules, yet gets it just right.*



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Previous pages, left to right: Designer Katie Scott used a circular piece of artwork by Ricardo Paniagua to soften the linear feel of the living room. A wall of doors opens to the pool area. These pages: An outdoor rug brings beach house ease to the living room, as well as a graphic punch of pattern.

ike so many Southerners, Katie Scott had spent countless summer vacations on Florida's Highway 30A. As a result, Scott and her brother, Michael Ridgeway, had long fantasized

about owning a home along the beautiful stretch of beach. "When Alys Beach started its development, we all went crazy over the white Bermudian architecture and courtyard-style living combined with a modern, seaside aesthetic," she says. "Michael and his wife, Tereza, were the first to manifest the dream into reality when they saw an opportunity to build a house there."

Luckily for her brother and sister-in-law, Scott is one of the South's most accomplished designers. She also had recently finished a new house for the couple in the Old Metairie neighborhood of New Orleans, so she was very familiar with their tastes. "For this home, we were inspired by classic Palm Beach style," the designer says, "but we wanted to avoid the typical beach house look. That led to our idea of a dark green-and-black palette."

To highlight the tall doors across the back of the Alys Beach house, Scott painted them black. She continued the color on the window frames, laying the groundwork for the home's highly nontraditional interior palette of black and green. Fourteen-foot ceilings enlarge the sense of space and flood the interiors with natural light, creating the perfect canvas for the vivid hues.

Known for her use of bold color, Scott covered the living room sofas with a kelly green fabric trimmed in preppy white. Black upholstery on the chairs, as well as on a nearby dining banquette, add to the room's energy. The designer chose commercial-grade or outdoor fabrics to allow for wet bathing suits, even on the

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sofas. Black-lacquer finishes throughout the house, including on the kitchen cabinetry, add uptown polish to the scheme. “I love how rich and cozy it makes the relatively simple kitchen feel,” she says. “The counters are white marble, so there is a beautiful contrast of light and dark.”

Because the living room/dining room combination is long and linear, Scott chose to break up the space. “I created banquette seating along one wall to bring the dining space away from the living room area, which really opened up the room,” she says. Over the dining table, a series of Warhol-type celebrity portraits, commissioned from architect and artist Ken Tate, provides a reliable conversation starter. “Michael and Tereza had fun picking out their favorite people to feature,” says Scott.

The guest bedrooms received their fair share of color with black and white animated by punches of vivid yellow. In one room, a simple platform bed rests on a black-and-white rug while yellow accessories add a bit of interest. In the guest house, a black tester bed with brass accents takes center stage. A desk and chair echo the bed’s materials, while a sunshine-colored rug underpins the glamorous space.

For the master retreat, Scott took a turn toward the classic with blue-and-white textiles mixed with wicker furnishings for an old-school vibe. As the designer explains, the room’s décor offers the perfect antidote to the energy of the rest of the house—and the perfect place to drift to sleep in this vacation home that was once only a dream.

Opposite: A custom banquette gives the dining area the flexibility to host kids’ board games or adult gatherings. Pop-art canvases by Ken Tate hang over the banquette. Michael and Tereza chose the famous faces that appear. Above, left to right: In the living room, yellow accents add zing to the green-and-black scheme. A vintage art deco buffet welcomes visitors with libations. “We thought it would be a perfect bar and a fun introduction to the entertaining space,” says Scott.



Clockwise from above: The Ridgeways' house opens onto a charming courtyard at Alys Beach. In the entry, a black framed mirror sets the tone for the main floor's bold palette. Black lacquer cabinets add drama to the kitchen. The outdoor seating area centers on a small plunge pool. Opposite: The dining area features a waterproof banquette and a brass-based table.



"I CREATED BANQUETTE SEATING ALONG ONE WALL TO BRING THE DINING SPACE AWAY FROM THE LIVING AREA, WHICH REALLY OPENED UP THE ROOM." - KATIE SCOTT





Opposite, clockwise from top left: In the guest house, brass-trimmed furniture lends a note of polish. A vessel-topped vanity brings modern lines to a bathroom. The master bedroom offers a classic blue-and-white scheme with a wicker bed and nautical-inspired rug. This page: A budget-friendly Ikea bed and rug provide strong geometry to this tailored guest room. Beach artwork by Sarah Ferguson hangs over the bed.

