



COASTAL LIVING  
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 CHISHOLM HALL

THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO.

“I remember sitting on the porch with my son when we first bought this house, looking out at the water, and thinking, ‘This is where we’re going to raise our babies and grow our family,’” says Elizabeth Mazyk of her family’s beach house in Inlet Beach, Florida. “We wanted a vacation home where we could gather and spend holidays like Christmas, and that our children would remember as being an important part of their childhood.”



She and her husband, John, knew the stretch of emerald sea along the Panhandle well. The Montgomery, Alabama-based pair had previously owned a vacation condo along the same Gulf Coast corridor, a spirited string of beach towns known as 30A for the two-lane state highway that connects them. The popular strip sees more than its share of visitors, but Inlet Beach—tacked to the end like a sunny postscript—is decidedly sleepy. In fact, the beach is often near empty, says Elizabeth. So when she and John found a four-bedroom house right on the ocean with stacked porches and an open floor plan—ideal for keeping that quiet seascape in view from most every room—they leapt. “The beach and water have always represented peace to us, and that’s what we found here, outside these windows,” says Elizabeth.

And she was determined to continue that sense of serenity inside. “My favorite time of day here is sunset, and so often, it appears in sea glass colors—lavender, sea foam, periwinkle,” says Elizabeth, who teamed up with Erika Powell of Urban Grace Interiors to help turn the palette of sky and sea into a tranquil but also family-friendly retreat. Here, the two share their secrets for creating rooms that draw on the feel-good powers of nature and spread glad tidings year-round.

**Create a natural light parade.**

“When you’re standing at the kitchen sink, you’re looking out at the Gulf,” says Powell. “That’s the beauty of an open floor plan when you’re right on the beach.” To reflect sunlight off the water, she and Elizabeth chose glossy blue subway tiles and white quartz countertops, and then contrasted the reflective surfaces with matte-finish gray Chippendale chairs (upholstered in a stain-resistant aqua fabric) from Ballard Designs and distressed metal pendant lights by The Urban Electric Co.

