

# the Comeback Coastal

*A summer house on Galveston Bay offers a nod  
to the city's renaissance as a holiday resort.*



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They might not wear 10-gallon hats and cowboy boots, but the Texan design team that built this five-bedroom, 5,000-square-foot retreat on Galveston Bay has plenty of roots in the Lone Star State. “We’re all from Texas,” says Houston-based interior designer Melanie King, who collaborated on the project with architect Bat Oggero and builder Chris Cunningham. “Bat and I went to Texas A&M, and the homeowners are from Houston. We had that instant camaraderie.”

The two-story coastal home offers picturesque views of both the bay and the ocean beyond. And it’s close to the city of Galveston, once a bustling port and a center of commerce that is now enjoying a comeback. King played a key role in selecting the millwork and finishes that elevate the home’s aesthetic. “The décor is nautical and coastal with an industrial edge, much like the history of Galveston,” she says. “The foyer has a beautiful barrel ceiling and white oak floors extending to the great room. There, we did a painted shiplap ceiling with wood beams separating the kitchen, dining, and living areas.” Airy light fixtures also add spatial separation, including a shell chandelier in the living area, double linen-and-chrome lanterns above the dining table, and triple pendants with a nautical-meets-industrial look over the kitchen island.

“Entertaining is very important to the homeowners, whether hosting family, friends, or business associates,” says King. “So we added French doors that open onto 10-foot-wide



Previous pages: Loungers provide a spot to sunbathe poolside with a view of Galveston Bay. Outdoor furniture from Teak Warehouse offers sitting and dining areas on the covered porch just off the great room. Above left: The transitional coastal-style home fronts the street and backs the bay. Above: A Bungalow 5 chest and a pair of oversized table lamps create a foyer niche, while the contemporary artwork brings a bit of movement to the space.



The great room is visually divided into living, dining, and kitchen areas. Vanguard armchairs with nailhead trim pull up to a Brownstone coffee table in the living area. Curtains made from a Lee Jofa fabric draw the eye to the wall of windows and the view beyond.







Left and above: Slipcovered dining chairs gather around a Brownstone dining table topped with vases from West Elm. Below, left to right: The kitchen includes marble countertops and a custom hood with stainless detail. Mosaic marble defines the bar sink wall.



decks to create an inside-outside flow for large gatherings.” Furnishings were selected with coastal elegance and familial comfort in mind. Traditional yet clean-lined silhouettes are upholstered or slipcovered in linens, wools, cottons, and plenty of Perennial fabrics. King pulled the palette from the waterfront setting: driftwood browns and grays, ocean blues and greens, and occasional punches of saturated color. But her starting point was white. “White is my blank canvas,” says the designer. “I set it down first and then layer elements on top.”

King also has a knack with pattern and enjoys playing with shape and scale. In the great room, curtains in a graphic organic print outlined in silver thread on Belgian linen create a nice counterbalance to a pair of chairs upholstered in a petite herringbone fabric. The designer even mixed things up a bit in the bathrooms by combining penny, marble, porcelain, and travertine tile in differing forms and sizes. “The bunkroom was one of my biggest priorities,” King says of the upstairs space that sleeps up to 12 beneath the widow’s peak. “It has shiplap siding, a window seat, cotton bedding and curtains, and an adjacent shower and laundry room. The parents requested this space to be able to



Clockwise from top left: A custom barn door made from reclaimed wood seals off the playroom from the great room when needed. Lumens stools surround a Stanley pedestal table, while a fish rug adds a beach vibe. A contemporary piece from Leftbank Art hangs above a Lucite-and-velvet bench in the foyer hall.





A set of star light pendants from Circa Lighting fills the expanse of the vaulted ceiling in the bunkroom.



accommodate their children and friends.”

By contrast, the master bedroom is all elegance, with a tufted velvet headboard, a chic mesh chandelier, and sumptuous silk and brocade bedding. In the master bath, a glassed-in shower, freestanding tub, and marble-topped double vanity complete the luxurious retreat. And while it offers a nice respite for the parents at the end of the day, this family spends most of its time enjoying the more public spaces of a home tailor-made to welcome friends and family.



Clockwise from top left: A guest room offers a study in pattern, beginning with the Vanguard upholstered bed. A sectional makes for comfy seating poolside. The house offers water views from almost every room, even a guest room at the front of the house. The bunkroom bathroom has a concrete trough sink and blue cabinetry.





Opposite page: Butterfly wallpaper by Thibaut creates a feature wall in another guest room. This page, clockwise from top left: The spacious master bathroom incorporates his-and-hers vanities, as well as a dressing table. A Kravet grass-cloth wall covering adds texture to the master bedroom. The shower in the master bathroom is accessible from two sides. Behind the tub is an aqua tiled half wall in an arabesque pattern that repeats the shower's accent wall.