



IN THE DETAILS

Two architects / interior designers describe their projects and processes, one inspiring feature at a time **By Jill McDonnell**

CURTIS & WINDHAM ARCHITECTS

Walking through the town of Seaside, Florida, feels like stepping back into a simpler time—one that Bill Curtis, founding principal at Curtis & Windham Architects, likens to visiting Mayberry.

He lucked out when found the last lot on Seaside Avenue for his Houston-based clients, who had vacationed in Seaside for more than a quarter century—but adhering to Seaside's fabled building codes, while also bringing the client's personality to bear in both build and design, proved challenging. "We had to find the contrast within the rules," Curtis says. He accomplished this by building the two-story-high porch required by Seaside's codes, then carved an elliptical room-like space out of its midsection.

The clients and Curtis also were heavily influenced by coastal architecture, which is apparent in the exterior shingle pattern, horizontal boards applied to the interior walls, turned porch columns, and the rounded towers bracketing the back porch. Vintage and nautical-themed lights located throughout the home also evoke that coastal-house feeling.

The designs for this stunning home placed an onus on the general contractor—particularly with its mandatory two-story porch—but O.B. Laurent Construction was up for the job. "The curves and movement in the wood-frame construction are what made this project so unique," says co-owner Beau Laurent, "as well as the clever use of land—creating a private courtyard in a neighborhood not known for privacy."

Left: The home's spiral staircase is just one of many highlights, also embodying the wavy curves of its architecture and exterior paneling.

Right: From the white-and-blue color scheme to decorations, books, pillows, framed photos, and a wooden bar—down to a compass painted on a bathroom wall—the Seaside Avenue home incorporates its nautical theme with every last detail. The powder room merges the home's coastal influence, the couple's personality, and the new beach roots that they are laying down—featuring a painted map that points to their home in Houston, to where their child attends college in Scotland, and to other places significant to the couple.

