



It's all about the mix in the dining area of Lee Ann and Buddy McCulloch's WaterColor, Florida, home. Wood plank walls and a bleached pine table speak of classic Southern charm, while bold artwork and a sleek, swirling chandelier invigorate the space.

# sweet *surrender*

The epitome of easy coastal living, this *Florida getaway* beckons one family to keep coming back for more.

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Sheer draperies soften the hardy wood floors and ceiling beams in the great-room. Three pairs of French doors lead to the back patio and pool, encouraging laid-back indoor-outdoor living.

## *The first thing they do when they reach*

their home in WaterColor, Florida, is exhale. “We throw open the windows, let the sunshine in, and say ahhhh,” Lee Ann McCulloch says. And unwinding is easy for Lee Ann and husband Buddy in this friendly seaside community where concerts in the parks, walking and biking trails, locally owned restaurants, golf courses, farmers markets, and miles of beaches beckon. “We chose this location for the community lifestyle and small-town feel,” Buddy says. And the fact that they can share all this with their children and grandchildren makes the experience all the sweeter.

Living in a town called WaterColor on Florida’s Emerald Coast, it seems fitting that the homeowners craved a house filled with color—a marked contrast to their more traditional primary residence in Texas. Interior designer Cara McBroom helped the couple achieve their vision of a casual, coastal home filled with bold, bright colors. “This was my chance to put in the colors I wanted—lime green, turquoise, and coral,” Lee Ann says. “It’s fun to let your hair down and create an oasis.” They kept the walls bright white and then pulled in vibrant color with pillows and art. “Every color really pops,” McBroom says. She installed large works of art to carry out the color scheme and filled every room with a fun mix of floral, geometric, ikat, and chevron print fabrics.

While the colors sing, the decor is low maintenance. “There is nothing stuffy or formal about this house,” Lee Ann says. “I don’t worry about having anything invaluable. We’re here for relaxation.” To that end, McBroom selected washable linen slipcovers for the sofas and chairs and added rustic wood furniture that echoes the distressed floors and ceiling beams.

At 4,200 square feet, the three-story vacation home has both open spaces and private quarters. The family gathers in the spacious great-room, where French doors lead to a fire pit and swimming pool. The four bedrooms and a bunk room deftly accommodate a crowd. “We have our master bedroom and two second masters for our children,” Lee Ann says.

In addition to pleasing Buddy and Lee Ann, McBroom had input from the entire family. “We didn’t want it to be just my taste or Cara’s taste,” Lee Ann explains. “We wanted to hear from the kids and grandkids. Everyone was able to contribute something.” After years of vacationing in Florida, the family now has an inviting, personal place of its own. “When we arrive,” Lee Ann says, “it feels like a little piece of home.”



**OPPOSITE:** A school of silver-leaf fish hovers above the crisp kitchen and highlights the stainless-steel appliances and shimmering backsplash. **ABOVE:** Art glass platters create a dimensional focal point while filling a triangular space in the entry hall. **BELOW:** Deep porches and balconies, big windows, squared columns, and generous overhangs highlight the consistent Southern coastal look of homes in WaterColor.



“We liked the idea of *classic, timeless* furniture shapes, jazzed up with bright colors and contemporary art.”

—CARA MCBROOM, interior designer



**OPPOSITE LEFT:** A chevron print chair and juicy orange pillow play up some of Lee Ann’s favorite patterns and colors in a corner of the master bedroom. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Designer Cara McBroom introduced curvy lamps to counteract the straight lines of the upholstered bed and bench. **ABOVE LEFT:** The grandkids can’t wait to get to the bunk room, where each of the four sleeping spaces features little windows and built-in drawers. The bunks are painted a crisp, beachy white and piled with washable bedding and colorful pillows. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The decor takes on a retro touch in a second master bedroom, where wood tones temper the graphic bedding and headboard.