

A Casino Beach Cottage that Honors the Past

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The inspiration for this redesign was a historic cottage revival. Maintaining the classic yet quirky 1930s architectural forms, Leah Lippmann transitioned the neglected, renter-worn interior into a functional family weekend home. The goal was to strip it back to what it once was and to update it with a simple yet refined style that enhances historic style points.

Like many old cottages, this one went through a series of changes over time, including additions that created awkward areas. Lippmann created a more functional space with improved flow by changing a few wall placements and constructing new openings. The family wanted kitchen access to the outdoors—a raised terrace off the kitchen accommodates their vision and extends their entertaining space. Knickerbocker Group had to remove an existing garage to make room for the terrace because the lot size was already at capacity. “By accepting what we had to work with, we were able to breathe much-needed new life

into the home, giving it a fresh purpose: to welcome a new generation,” says Lippmann.

The color palette is reminiscent of the sea and sky, integrating a calm sensibility. The tiles in the style of a bygone era honor the home’s historic nature but with a modern feel. The entry tile is encaustic concrete with a traditional pattern that fits the period of the cottage. The bathroom vanities encompass a modern vibe through their flat panel, and their driftwood finish lends a beachy feel. The pendants over the kitchen island that were purchased by the homeowner on a trip to San Francisco add a touch of whimsy. The built-in banquette seating is upholstered in a modern, high-performance fabric, offering a splash of color to enhance the space’s palette—the color of the cabinets is complementary. To make space for the bunk room, Knickerbocker Group opened up a small closet under the eaves, and some additional space they acquired from another bedroom allowed them to tuck a second bunk into the room.

