THE MAGAZINE OF HOME & STYLE

FRESHAIR STYLE:

DECORATING FOR INDOORS & OUT



TOMMY
SMYTHE
DESIGNS ON
LONG ISLAND
SOUND







OU CAN BE INSPIRED BY ALMOST ANYTHING when it comes to design: your career, nature, magazines, Pinterest or a night at the movies — especially if you're catching a Nancy Meyers film. The director is known for her spectacular sets and once said she sees a house as a lead character. The most coveted of these on-screen homes is featured in the movie *Something's Gotta Give*. Nancy described it beautifully: "It's every woman's dream house. The house that, if you became successful and could afford a beach house, yours would look like."

Perhaps it isn't a coincidence that Tracey Ayton's beach home was built in 2003 — the same year *Something's Gotta Give* was released. Tracey, an interior, food and lifestyle photographer, says she always imagined living in a home like the one she obsessed over in the movie, so it was kismet when she and her husband, Jay Edwards, came across the real-estate listing for the Boundary Bay, B.C., house. "It was full of potential," says Tracey. "We immediately envisioned what we wanted when we walked through the rooms; we knew what we could do with the space."

The location clinched the deal, making their decision to sell their home in Vancouver easy. Boundary Bay, a small coastal community in Tsawwassen, B.C., is only a 30-minute drive from Vancouver, and they already had family there. Plus, they were drawn to the vacation-like vibe

TOP LEFT: Homeowners Tracey Ayton and Jay Edwards with their pup, Frankie. Chair, Lowe's; windows (throughout), M.R. Windows. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The pretty front porch has decking reminiscent of a boardwalk. Light fixture, The Lighting Warehouse; doors (throughout), Leadwin Doors; large basket, Ming Wo; small basket, West Coast Gardens; hanging basket (on door), Gild & Co.

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WE WANTED TO STAY CLASSIC IN STYLE AND NATURAL WITH OUR FINISHES







ABOVE: The basket pendants that illuminate the covered back porch were inspired by a visit to Malibu Farm restau in California. "The outdoor eating area had amazing basket pendants, so I set about finding something similar yet affordable," says Tracey. "These pendant were the perfect find." Pendants, World Market; throw pillow, Gild & Co.

LEFT: In the evening, guests lounge by

the fire bowl. The shed, painted white the match the house, and white hydranges are bright additions. *Fire bowl, DreamC Design and Production; chairs, Lowe's.* **BOTTOM LEFT:** Baskets of greenery are plentiful on the back porch.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The generous outdoor table is ideal for entertaining. Dining to RH; blue tray, jug, white glasses, Heather Ross Natural Eclectic; metal plant holde Southlands Nursery; metal lanterns, Roctable linens, Rothman & Co.







of the area — think salty sea air, eucalyptus trees and sun (there's more sunshine here than the rest of the Lower Mainland; the bay has its own microclimate). It also didn't hurt that the house was right across the street from the beach, a mere 30 steps away.

Tracey's always had an eye for decorating and, thanks to her work shooting and styling gorgeous homes, she felt comfortable taking on the design herself. The couple quickly found themselves immersed in the renovation together with architect Jennifer Heath and contractor Dave Ayton, Tracey's brother, who played a significant role in creating the home they envisioned. "It was a total gut job — right down to the studs," says Tracey. "When we were finished, there were just a few walls left standing. It was a lot of work, but I loved the process. It was actually fun, especially when the framing and the windows and doors went in. The old was stripped away and it started to look like a beach house."

The result was exactly what the couple had pictured — a 2,400-square-foot, two-storey, three-bedroom abode, reminiscent of the quaint East Coast–style homes found in Nantucket, Mass., and the Hamptons, N.Y. "Everyone seems

to be going West Coast contemporary, but we wanted to stay classic in style and natural with our finishes," says Tracey. They chose to keep the paint light with soft periwinkle blues and warm greys and whites. They also included plenty of wooden accents, from the shingles on the exterior to the shiplap on the walls. "We've embraced the etches and scratches on the countertops and prefer how natural materials wear and age."

Their biggest expense was a direct nod to *Something's Gotta Give*: a bank of floor-to-ceiling French doors leads out to a pretty garden filled with white hydrangeas. "Everyone who comes in and heads to the back of the house stops in the same spot and takes in the view," says Tracey.

Tracey and Jay spend as much time as they can at the nearby beach. After hours paddleboarding or kayaking, walking their spinone, Frankie, and lounging in the sun, they cross the street to their private beachside retreat. "We tend to travel in the winter now because summer is so beautiful here," says Tracey. "We keep the windows and doors open and let the warm air come through. There's really nowhere else we'd rather be."

