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House Beautiful

The OUTDOOR Issue

Brilliant New Ways to Turn Your Backyard into the Ultimate Getaway

A pool cabana by superstar designer Amber Lewis gives new meaning to the phrase "cirque du soleil."
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A Fine Balance

When a designer known for quiet elegance meets a homeowner who loves the bold and unexpected, the results are the best of both worlds.

LIVING ROOM

A series of window treatments in a slubby floral linen and hand-woven striped fabric by Guy Goodfellow Collection tie the room together, while lightweight chairs simplify the seating. "Every single one can be picked up by a person, young and old alike," Amber Lewis says.



*interior designer Amber Interior Design / architect Curtis & Windham Architects
writer Carisha Swanson / photographer Shade Degges*



MUDROOM

At the back of the home, a guest entrance is wrapped in a subtle striped wallpaper from [Nicole Fabre Designs](#) that combines abstract floral motifs with delicate line drawings. **Tile:** [Mission Tile West](#). **Trim, ceiling paint:** Pigeon, [Farrow & Ball](#). **Picture light:** [Robert Kime](#).

“My clients are so ‘extra’...

they wanted everything in their house to be yellow—the kitchen, the trim,” Amber Lewis says of her friends turned clients and their vision for transforming a 19th-century former ship captain’s home into “everybody’s summer house” on Martha’s Vineyard. “I was like, ‘Nope! We’ll get in color, but in a way that makes sense.’”

The owner of lifestyle brand Biscuit Home, Bailey McCarthy, and her husband, Pete, appreciated Lewis’s perspective. They asked her to combine her relaxed-but-refined style with Bailey’s over-the-top flair. (This is a woman who hosts a Pink Poodle Party starring her rose-tinted dog every year.) Lewis had sworn “never to work with friends” but made an exception for the McCarthys, in part because “the whole house was a jumbled mess.”

Before she could debate the couple’s color choices, she needed to bring order to the chaos. “**We figured if we could create one long space, like a hotel lobby, we could have more funky rooms off of it,**” Lewis explains. She began by opening up the living room to create distinct conversa-

tional areas around each of the existing fireplaces; one side is grounded by a velvet sofa, the other by an English-inspired corner banquette. In the expanded eat-in kitchen, she mixed New England touches such as painted cabinetry and checked linen seating with old-world elements like patinated copper and Calacatta marble.

With roomy gathering spaces taken care of, Lewis turned her attention to the “flair.” A bookcase in the living room hides an island-inspired speakeasy, complete with bar seating that mimics seashells. Downstairs, a multilevel movie room is outfitted with wall-to-wall cashmere carpet and draped in 326 yards of fabric. And then there’s the poolside outdoor tent, because “extra” was still on order. The cabana was cleverly fabricated in rust-proof metal and finished in a sunny stripe, giving McCarthy her desired in-your-face color (she really wanted green and yellow stripes, but Lewis nixed that). Proving that compromise is the key to any good partnership, their friendship is still intact. “We now know how we work,” Lewis says. “We could totally do this again!” ■

LEWIS CHOSE
NATIVE PLANTS FOR
THIS HAND-PAINTED
WALLCOVERING.

DINING ROOM

The *de Gournay* wallcovering allowed McCarthy to “get all of the colors she wanted,” Lewis says, in a more “muted yellow” while still maintaining a cohesive aesthetic. **Chairs:** Nickey Kehoe, in Rogers & Goffigon Ltd. fabric. **Chandelier:** In Common With.






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KITCHEN

To ensure the room felt timeless, Lewis steered her clients away from a bright yellow kitchen toward a more demure palette. **Stools:** [Shaker Shoppe Inc.](#) **Pendants:** [Jamb.](#) **Cabinet paint:** Light Blue, [Farrow & Ball](#). **Floor:** [Farrow & Ball](#).

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BREAKFAST AREA

Lewis designed a corner banquette for the long, narrow kitchen because it allows people to easily “scoot around” the table rather than moving chairs awkwardly in and out. **Paint:** White Tie, [Farrow & Ball](#).



THE VALANCE
FABRIC REAPPEARS
PLEATED BEHIND
CABINET DOORS.

BEDROOM

Lewis designed two primary bedrooms so the owners could have their pick. With a working fireplace and an abundance of textiles, this runner-up is a guest favorite. **Fabrics:** Michael S Smith Inc. (floral) and Ian Mankin (stripe). **Bedding:** Biscuit Home.

TV ROOM

"I love this green. It's such a relaxing color," Lewis says. "If you looked at this on a paint swatch, you wouldn't pick it. But when the entire room is that color, it's really lovely." **Paint:** Lichen (high gloss), Farrow & Ball. **Rug:** Marc Phillips.



SPEAKEASY

Concealed behind a secret “bookcase” door, this room pays homage to the home’s shoreside location with wave-inspired wainscoting and a custom mural by de Gournay. **Barstools:** Maison Madeleine. **Flooring:** Burchette & Burchette.



MOVIE ROOM

Shortly after the new basement level was completed with fabric and furnishings, it flooded with 18 inches of water. "I think the captain was reminding everybody that he was there," Lewis says. **Rug:** Marc Phillips. **Ceiling and wall fabric:** Classic Cloth.

"I wanted to make my friends' home the coolest house ever."





KIDS' ROOM

"The kids' rooms were so tiny, basically closets," Lewis says. "So we did these little nautical-inspired bunks in both rooms to get the most bang for our buck." **Curains:** [Julie Thome Draperies](#). **Paint:** De Nimes, [Farrow & Ball](#). **Wallpaper:** [Robert Kime](#). **Rug:** [Marc Phillips](#).

GUEST ROOM

Located in the guest-house, this bedroom features a canopy and headboard designed with [fabric from Classic Cloth](#) and fabricated by [Julie Thome Draperies](#). **Wallcovering:** [Cowtan & Tout](#). **Bed:** [Worthen Furniture](#). **Bedding:** [Biscuit Home](#) and [Shophe Amber Interiors](#).

GUEST BATH

A minty blue [soaker tub](#) by [The Water Monopoly](#) picks up colors from the nearby bedroom, making visitors want to stay forever. "This girl does not cut a corner for a single human," Lewis says of her generous friend. "Everybody gets the full experience." **Scones:** [Jamb](#).





CABANA AREA
The circus-meets-sophisticated pool pavilion, designed with [Curtis & Windham Architects](#), can comfortably seat 10 guests. "It's wild!" Lewis says. **Umbrellas:** [Santa Barbara Designs](#). **Chaise longues:** custom, by [Casamidy](#).