

# Coastal chic making waves

By **Diane Cowen** Updated 12:11 pm, Wednesday, June 8, 2016

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Photo: David Schutts

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Houston interior designer Courtney Tartt Elias nurtured a coastal vibe in this beach home, using soft neutrals, accents of blue and pops of orange.

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While homes all over the country employ coastal design, the Houston-Galveston iteration is chic and sophisticated, with lighter colors, polished or matte metals and plenty of blue.

"The coastal experience is more about the color and texture, and a feeling that you get," said **Seamus Kraham**, owner of the **Urban Resort** home décor shop in Galveston. "The coastal atmosphere makes people calmer and, hopefully, happier."

Kraham, too, said the aesthetic is about bringing the feel of the outdoors to the indoors. "I was walking to work and saw a flower in bloom with ivory and blue coming down. It looks exactly to me like a piece of ceramic I have in the store," he said. "That's my idea of contemporary coastal - that a piece relates to nature and reminds me of where I've been, the smells I've enjoyed."

Designer **Courtney Tartt Elias** recently finished a beach home in Port Aransas, but the one she's in the middle of designing is her own. She and her brother bought a beach house in Galveston, and the two of them have decided to give it a more modern update.

They've torn out the interiors and are adding elements for a fun coastal feel: shiplap on some of the walls, pops of color in fabric and interior accents. She's even thinking about wallpaper in unexpected places, such as the pantry or laundry room.

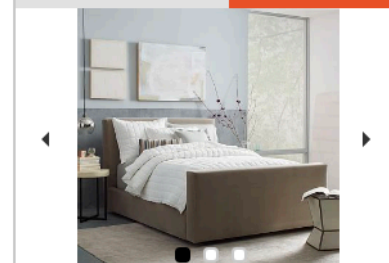
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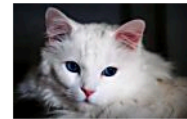
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