

# SUNNY SIDE UP



Summertime and the living is easy—not to mention colorful—in this family home by the sea.

BY JAMES SERVIN • PHOTOGRAPHY ANNIE SCHLECHTER





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aureen and Nathan Doron are counting their blessings. It was only last fall that their Strathmere, New Jersey, house was flooded by Hurricane Sandy. “We’re lucky that everyone was safe,” says Maureen, mom to three boys, Luke, 6, Noah, 4, and Toby, 2, and owner of two clothing boutiques called Skirt. Since then, the couple has been busy making repairs to their 2,000-square-foot structure. While new concrete flooring has been installed on the ground level, the rest of the three-story saltbox retains its pre-Sandy spirit of kicky hues and modern furnishings. Maureen, who joined forces with interior designer Mona Ross Berman, calls the decor ‘60s surfer chic. “The house is cozy and inviting, a fun place to be,” she says. “Our kids jump on the sofas and there’s pillow fighting—we wouldn’t have it any other way.”

## endless summer

In the living area, a clean white backdrop lets bold accessories pop. Sofas sport washable cotton slipcovers, and lightweight Moroccan poufs can be moved for extra seating. Cushions dressed up in spill-proof indoor-outdoor fabric create eye-catching accents. *Opposite page:* A deck facing the ocean becomes an alfresco dining spot as well as a place to play. “The boys are often at the table doing projects like painting shells,” says Maureen.



## ►► light fare

An aquamarine backsplash makes a cool statement in the white kitchen. “The tiles remind me of beach glass,” says Maureen. A scalloped fabric valance adds a finishing touch to the curtainless windows and puts the focus on the view. The chairs are reproductions of a '50s design. “When we have a full house, the kids sit at the bar and the adults at the table,” she explains. “It feels like we’re all eating together.”



## » new waves

Chevron stripes in turquoise, lemon and orange on the dining room table inspired Maureen's overall decorating scheme. The ebonized black wood floors throughout the house balance the vivid shades. Maureen went with midcentury modern Eames plastic chairs that stand up to wet swimming trunks and are also right at home on the deck. "It was my husband's idea to hang framed prints of shells and sea creatures native to New Jersey," she says.



## hidden gem

Vibrant sea-green geometric print wallpaper, a classic framed mirror and a display shelf for shells adorn the powder room. "It's like a little jewel box," says Maureen.





Maureen and Nathan in the yard with Noah, Luke, and Toby.

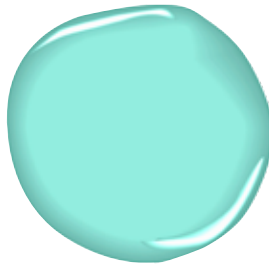
## ➤ orange crush

To pep up the mudroom, Maureen accented walls with electric orange paint. “The shade feels happy, bright and right for the seashore,” she says. A bench with cubbies holds swim essentials and a hanging shelf displays an assortment of nautical accessories as well as necessities like sunscreen. *Below left:* Maureen repeated the citrus color on the barn doors of the laundry closet upstairs for continuity.



## ➤ Maureen's Tips & Our Picks for Summer Style

Geometric prints are easier to mix than florals or plaids. *Marinella Placemat* in Citron, Tangerine and Turquoise, [shiraleah.com](http://shiraleah.com), \$10 each



★

Even a small space like a bathroom deserves attention. Bring it to life with deep-hued paint or wallpaper. *Benjamin Moore Seagrove (653)*



★

Have fun with dinnerware. Use quirky pieces that echo your color scheme. *Riccio Bowl*, [zarahome.com](http://zarahome.com) for similar to shown, \$10



★

Keep the look casual by incorporating both contemporary and vintage furniture. *Baxton Studio Azzo Plastic Mid-Century Modern Shell Chair in Red*, \$187/set of 2



★  
For effortless cleanups, choose cotton  
throw rugs. 3' x 5' *Recycled Chindi Rugs*,  
*World Market stores*, \$40 each

Don't go overboard with aquatic  
accessories. A few ocean-themed coffee-  
table books or shell motifs can do  
the trick. *Blue Coral Embroidered Lumbar  
Pillow Cover*, *potterybarn.com*, \$50



★  
Let in maximum light  
by opting for window  
panels or valances.  
*Waverly Eazy Breezy  
Fabric in Citrus*