

NAUTICAL STYLE

shipshape sanctuary

From *Miami Vice* to Miami nice: A family-friendly condo gets a much-needed makeover.



A console table, with handy drawers and an open shelf, sits near the front door. The mirror makes the space seem bigger and brighter.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF NAUTICAL STYLE

- Pops of primary colors and dashes of sea-glass hues against a sandy beige background
- Natural materials such as raffia and wicker
- A preponderance of stripes on walls, fabrics and accents
- Distressed painted wood furnishings, lending a weather-worn feel
- An open, easy-access galley kitchen that is family-friendly

“It was a 1980s disaster,” says interior designer Kristin Peake of the oceanfront condo she recently renovated for the Rhoa family in Bethany Beach, Delaware. “*Miami Vice* comes to mind,” she continues. “The whole place was ceramic tiles, pink carpets, mauve countertops, mirrored closets and track lighting,” Peake pauses, “but I had a vision.”



In the kids' bedroom, a chunky, blue-hued stripe covers the walls. The bedding is a mix of custom-made sail flag pillows, and striped shams and bed skirts, plus Tommy Hilfiger quilts and denim Ralph Lauren comforters.

By Charlotte Safavi • Photos by Morgan Howarth



A vintage beach sign points to the master bedroom, where a red armoire houses a TV. Atop it, stacked wicker suitcases serve as makeshift storage.

changes that simplify

"We tore up carpets, stripped wallpaper, removed mirrors... then, we added wall-to-ceiling beadboard," says Peake.

"I wanted to introduce some architectural detail," she says of the beadboard, now painted a light khaki. "Besides, the wood interior feels like a boat and is easy to keep clean."

To be space-smart, Peake turned one of the three bedrooms into a den with a pullout sofa for guests, but also with space for toys and storage for mom. The previously enclosed kitchen was opened up into a galley kitchen with a breakfast bar. For economy, the cabinetry was kept but painted crisp white, with fresh hardware on doors and drawers. Old appliances were switched to

new stainless ones, and resilient Corian counters were added. Inexpensive Pergo laminate floors delineate the kitchen area and are suited to handle spills. Elsewhere, Peake laid a nubby wool-blend Berber carpet in a beige color.

"The carpet's pebbly texture makes it easier to vacuum up sand," she says. "With children around, the materials have to be kid-friendly." Peake's sensitivity to the young family was as important to her design choices as was the nautical theme.

Instead of lots of overly defined spaces, Peake opted for a flexible open floor plan, with easy-to-manipulate furnishings that could work anywhere in the condo on an as-needed basis.

The living area, once stifled by a sectional, now has a linear



Flexible yet comfortable seating makes this space a cozy port of call. The mirror, cleverly shaped like a porthole, is a nice nautical accent, as are the starfish, coral and the wood fishing boat model.



"Because of the condo's electrical wiring, we couldn't do anything about the kitchen other than open it up to make a breakfast bar," says Peake. "In any case, the galley kitchen was perfect for our nautical theme." The bar stools came from Crate & Barrel.

sofa, two tailored armchairs and white tables that fade into the background. The round table in the dining area expands, and two simple stools sit at the breakfast bar. "I wanted to choose pieces that can be picked up and easily moved, that can be translated to different spaces at different times," Peake says.

Against the sand-hued backdrop, Peake upholstered and accessorized

with primary colors, in keeping with her nautical theme. For fabric patterns, she used bold stripes and barely there plaids, and for textures, she stuck with woven raffia and distressed wood, bringing to mind the shoreline's sea grass and bleached wood.

fabrics have to be durable

"When it came to fabrics, I used easy-to-wash cottons and Sunbrella indoor/

outdoor stain-resistant fabrics," says Peake, "materials that would withstand chlorine from the pool, suntan lotion, melting Popsicles."

Peake and the homeowners are now good friends. "As for the condo," she says, "they're thrilled with it."

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"I used an old fish wharf lantern to define the dining space," says Peake. Other sea-inspired accessories include a vintage oar, framed crustacean prints and a plantation shutter covering a narrow window without a view.