

Standing in the gorgeous kitchen of 105 Turks Head Court, Mike Mohler of Project Works looked around and smiled. "It all started with a phone call from Lisa," he laughed. "She said, 'Mike, I need you to come look at something with me.'"

Lisa has owned several properties on Bald Head Island, and Project Works had just finished renovating a house on the marsh for her when a cottage in Harbour Village went on the market. "I wasn't surprised," he said. "I knew she had always wanted to live in the harbor."

While the house had been a long-term rental and was showing its wear, it had good bones, as they say, and together they brainstormed a way to breathe new life into the space.

"Lisa knows what she wants," said Mike. "She has very specific vision and excellent taste. When we finished, there was nothing left of the original house; it was a completely new aesthetic."



KITCHEN BEFORE

"Lisa knows what she wants. She has very specific vision and excellent taste."



Rounding the corner at the top of the stairs, you enter the stunning and spacious kitchen with dark greenish-gray cabinets featuring brushed gold hardware that establishes the house's next-level look. Suede-textured, black-stone countertops contrast beautifully with the gray veins of the sleek white marble behind the stove and the oversized island's creamy marble countertop.

The new kitchen is in the same general space as the previous one, explained Mike, but some of the appliances have been relocated and a window was added over the sink.

The fresh take on nautical continues throughout the upstairs, where shiplap lines the walls, stainless steel cables support the stair rails, and laminate wood-tone floors ground the space.

warm & inviting

Cool & chic meets





BY ODETTA ARNOLD
PHOTOS BY
HARRY TAYLOR

At a glance, the two houses in Harbour Village, nearly backing up to each other, look surprisingly similar. Look closer, however, and you'll notice details that tip you off to their vastly different interiors.

The stainless-steel porch railings at 105 Turks Head, for example, foreshadow the home's cool, contemporary aesthetic, while 48 Transom Row gives off a timeless beach cottage vibe that carries throughout its square footage.

The owners, too, use the cottages in different ways. Lisa Lautner, owner of the former, lives on the island full time. For Billy and Barbara Richardson, Bald Head Island is a seaside retreat.



105 TURKS HEAD COURT

Opposite page: Talk about a memorable entrance! This eye-popping image at the top of the stairs sets the tone for Lisa's eclectic art collection found inside.

Left: A modern update on a classic coastal cottage, the Lautner home overlooks a quaint common green, providing a spacious lawn just steps away. Double porches across the front of the home expand the living space, including an elevated perch for catching a seasonal breeze over coffee or cocktails.

48 TRANSMOM ROW

Right: Commanding a presence on the corner of Transom Row and Turks Head Court, the Richardson residence has a small porch at the entry and gracious outdoor living spaces tucked around the side and back of the house. In addition to a large screened porch off the living room, there's ample decking on the side where you'll find Billy's one request during renovations: a fishing closet filled with poles and angling supplies for all generations of Richardsons.





"With second homes at the beach, we want to keep it simple and livable, elegant with a nod to coastal," said Vicky Serany of Southern Studio Interior Design. "And we want to make it timeless—updated, but not trendy."

Left: The kitchen barstools and two of the dining chairs are upholstered for comfort, using performance fabrics for durability and ease of maintenance. The other dining chairs are wooden with simple spindles, a throwback to traditional beach cottages but with an updated shape. The large table was a must for puzzles, games and crafts.

Below: Cool blues and grays mix with warm wood and rattan, adding layers of tone and texture.



Left: The main living area is the embodiment of casual sophistication. The architectural details are on full display, with exposed ceiling beams and shiplap walls, while blues in every hue evoke the sky and sea, creating a calming seaside ambiance.

Casual, effortless elegance

"We love to come here and unwind in all seasons with our children and grandchildren."

In 2006, Billy and Barbara Richardson's college-aged son came back from visiting Bald Head Island with friends and raved to his parents, "You have to see this place!"

Gamely they visited and, like so many others, immediately fell in love with the island and began searching with realtor Doug Oakley for a property to buy.

"We looked at several cottages, but I loved the old beach house feel of the one in the harbor," said Barbara. The family shared countless memories there over the next 11 years, until Hurricane Florence extensively damaged the cottage in 2018. Since it had to be gutted and completely renovated, the Richardsons took the opportunity to modify the layout to better suit them and their extended family.



LIVING AREA BEFORE

Left: The original interior was rustic, with natural wood-stained planks on all the walls. With the renovation, Barbara wanted bright and updated, but also easy to maintain.



Above: The recessed alcove where the television hangs used to be a double window. The contractor cleverly sheet rocked the inside to create the wall while leaving the exterior shutters in place to suggest windows, in accordance with architectural guidelines. They did the same in the primary bedroom where two striking pieces of art now hang.

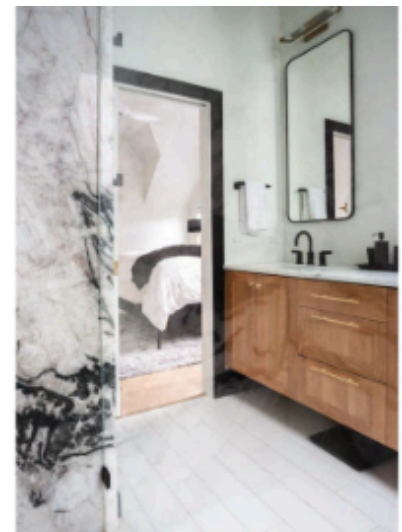
Right: In addition to two guest suites and a newly added powder room, a cozy multipurpose room occupies the first floor of the home. Infusing it with purpose and personality, Lisa has placed a carefully curated collection of books, family photographs, games and even a keyboard within reach.



LIVING AREA BEFORE

Top right: A tub and small shower in the primary bathroom were replaced with a large shower that has dramatic, full-slab marble walls, a portion of which is visible on the left side of the photo. Opposite, linen closets were removed to create a handsome floating double vanity.

Bottom right: Fitting a king-sized bed into the primary suite was a bit of a challenge, solved by replacing a traditional door with a pocket door and relocating the closet. The board-and-batten accent wall behind the bed is a lovely example of the custom trim work throughout the house.



Visual impact achieved

DESIGN/BUILD TEAM

Contractor: Project Works
Interiors: Lisa Lautner (owner) and Emily Bonney at Room Service



A multi-generational getaway, designed to welcome family and friends.

The Richardsons have three children and five grandchildren, so maximizing space within the relatively modest 1700 square feet was a priority. Architect Peter Quinn drew the renovation plans, putting a small addition on the back of the home to accommodate a larger primary bathroom and reconfiguring the downstairs to include an additional guest suite, plus a reimagined bunkroom and TV room for the grandchildren. He also added a bathroom in the crofter.



Everything old is new again



Built 20 years ago, the Richardson home is now virtually brand new, its interior having been renovated down to the studs.

In addition to being breathtakingly beautiful, the house is considerably more comfortable for family and guests, with more privacy for everyone and several cozy nooks claimed by the grandchildren for their own.

During the redesign process, Billy told Vicky, "Whatever Barbara wants, she can have." Given that Barbara shed tears of joy during what Vicky called "one of the best reveals ever," it's safe to say: mission accomplished.

DESIGN/BUILD TEAM

Renovation Architect: Peter Quinn
Contractor: Project Works
Interiors: Southern Studio Interior Design 🌿