

✦ *decorating*

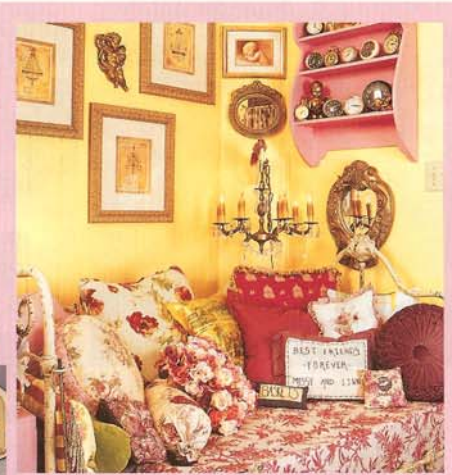
# What's Your COT

Beachy, romantic, floral or simply serene...

BY KATHRYN BECHEN

**W**hat does it take to create THE perfect cottage? Many designers think it's choosing a consistent theme. Whether you want your cottage to show that you feel at home by the water, love to garden or are a romantic at heart, each and every room in your home should reflect the look you choose. Not sure how to get started? Select one of the four looks shown here. We'll show you how to customize with colorful keepsakes, as well as point you in the right direction should you need to shop for more furniture and accessories.

## Romantic Retreat



**Group similar items—pillows, pictures or alarm clocks—to add a sense of history to a tiny reading nook.**

Photo by Philip Clayton-Thompson.

**Nostalgic finds and sentimental treasures cuddle closely around a wicker lady's desk. A crown of dried hydrangea tops an elaborately carved mirror.**

Photo by Dan Meyers.

**T** rue romantics can often be found daydreaming in the garden or listening to the birds sing. Why not create a theme around the colors and collectibles that tug at your heartstrings? Expose your delicate side with lace, florals and pastels in fabrics and upholstery. Curvy Queen Anne and Victorian furniture add charm. Clusters of accent lamps, throw pillows and rose-inspired collectibles pull off the lovey-dovey look.

### What To Collect:

- Antique plates to hang on the wall
- Curvy Queen Anne legs on couches and chairs
- Floral linens such as sheets, tablecloths, and throws
- Pillows made from toile fabric

**MORE RESOURCES:**  
[www.romanticroseboutique.com](http://www.romanticroseboutique.com)  
[www.makeminepink.com](http://www.makeminepink.com)

# TAGE STYLE?

choose a look that inspires you!

## *Beach Lover's Bungalow*



If you can't resist picking up shells every time you head to the shore, then this easy, breezy style is for you. Paint walls and wood floors the color of sunshine, sand and sky and let wispy curtains blow in the wind. Fill the space with cozy white slipcovered sofas accented by fluffy blue-striped pillows and a couple of Adirondack chairs. Showcase your collection of seashells and lighten up a side table with a coral lamp to create a coastal vibe above sea level.

### What To Collect:

- Shells and driftwood from the beach (or an online shell shop)
- Coastal paintings or prints
- Nautical gear such as lanterns or miniature wooden ships

MORE RESOURCES:  
[www.shesellsseashells.com](http://www.shesellsseashells.com)  
[www.caronsbeachcottage.com](http://www.caronsbeachcottage.com)



**Top left:** Show off an adventurous spirit with a model ship and treasure trunk. The console table by Stanley is available at [www.stanleyfurniture.com](http://www.stanleyfurniture.com).

**Above:** A blue and white palette and a few nautical accents keep this boy's bedroom looking ship shape. Photo by Mark Tanner.



Inside A Real-Life Fairytale Cottage & Garden

# Cottage Style

return to the simple life™

4  
Idea-Filled  
American  
Cabins

## Decorate!

### BRIGHT & EASY ACCENTS

CANDLES, CORAL,  
CHANDELIERS, POLKA DOTS  
& VINTAGE JEWELS

## GETAWAY THEMES

Vintage To Coastal

## 5 CHIC SEASHELL PROJECTS

California Bungalow Reborn With Retro Finds  
Old Sails Uplift A Rhode Island Bedroom



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