

The entry and adjoining dining room set the tone for this revamped abode in Austin, Texas. "The homeowner wanted it to be soothing, calming, and relaxing, like she comes home out of the hustle and bustle of everyday life into a nice retreat," says interior designer Raquel Skrobarczyk, owner of Heather Scott Home & Design.



# SEASIDE OVERTURES

WITH TRANQUIL TONES  
AND NODS TO THE SEASHORE,  
A TEXAS DESIGNER REIMAGINES  
ROOMS TO GRANT A MOTHER  
AND HER DAUGHTERS AN  
AT-HOME ESCAPE.

BY Ashley Shaw | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Avery Nicole Photography

AS SEEN IN  
SOUTHERN LADY  
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**Y**ou won't see white sand or blue water for miles, but stepping inside this Austin remodel, the city's spirited rush and rhythms give way to the serenity typical of a quiet coastal hideaway. "We wanted the homeowner to feel like she was on vacation," says Raquel Skrobarczyk, owner and principal designer at Heather Scott Home & Design.

Over the past decade, Raquel worked with the client, a dentist, to update her dental office as well as her living room. Much of the two-story house, however, remained dark with

Tuscan-style details the owner was ready to cast away completely. She tasked Raquel with refreshing the rest of the main level and the upstairs quarters with a calming color palette and subtle seaside influences.

"She loves blue, and she loves the beach," Raquel says of the homeowner, who lives with her two daughters and several four-legged companions. Setting the foundation for an airy, inviting ambience, wide planks of European white oak replaced dark hardwood floors throughout. Cabinetry and walls cloaked in pale blue paint, plus textiles that feature aqua and teal,

harmonize with neutral surfaces and furniture.

An elegantly curved staircase lends intrigue to the new foyer, which opens to the formal dining area. Raquel took advantage of an existing niche in the wall behind the buffet to make a distinctive focal point. "We wanted to jazz it up," Raquel says of the plastered wall painted a silvery blue. Pieces of dark-stained wood, affixed to a slightly antiqued mirror, create an oversize trellis effect. Along with the iron chandelier, the design imparts depth and contrasts with the driftwood-hued sideboard, table, and chairs.





The homeowner's suite showcases layers of ecru, taupe, and silvery blue in keeping with her wish for a serene atmosphere. Draperies depicting a contemporary botanical stripe coalesce with décor that takes cues from nature in the primary bath, from watercolor blossoms to a sculptural chandelier fashioned after magnolia flowers.



With a keen eye for tailored details, Raquel gave many classic furnishings chic updates—whether decorative trim on an armchair skirt or playful patterns in unpredictable places. “Changing out the back of a dining chair is a fun touch to add some personality,” says Raquel. She chose an animal print for the seating around the breakfast table and a whimsical take on polka dots for the chairbacks in the dining room. “To me, it’s important that everything is thoughtfully curated for the client so they feel like they have a one-of-a-kind piece that’s special for them,” she says.

Custom bed linens and a handcrafted light fixture strung with oyster shells were a must in the primary bedroom. The completely transformed en suite bath features a framed original watercolor and floor-to-ceiling marble. “The bathroom was a hundred-percent brown,” Raquel says, noting how their efforts made the space feel bigger and brighter. Pulling a tint from the

artwork, she painted the vanity cabinets and topped them with the same sleek white quartz used for the kitchen countertops.

For all her projects, Raquel places special focus on selecting just the right lighting for a given space. “We treat it as the jewelry of the home, essentially. There are so many beautiful shapes and styles; we like them to be kind of unexpected,” she says. In the kitchen, gilded mercury glass bell lanterns over the island infuse the cool surrounds with a warm shimmer.

Sophisticated floral motifs, such as a botanical sisal wallpaper and a coconut shell chandelier made to resemble magnolia petals, also reflect the family’s style. “It’s a house of girls,” Raquel says. The designer enjoyed bringing in such feminine flair to complement the refined, restful scheme her client desired not only for herself but also for those she loves. “She wanted it to be a bright and happy place for them to come home to and feel at peace.”

