

# Bald Head Island Sanctuary

Designer Lisa Sherry adapts her signature "casual luxe" style to her family's Bald Head Island retreat

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Interior Design by Lisa Sherry



Designer **Lisa Sherry**'s Bald Head Island refuge is a place to unwind with family and friends, a laid-back sanctuary from the cares and obligations of her life in High Point, North Carolina. Though she and her husband, photographer Ron Royals, had vacationed on the island for years with their three children, the family didn't begin hunting for a home there until 2004. At that time, a very special property happened to come onto the market, one of the first homes ever built on Bald Head Island, back in the early 1970s. Located on the third fairway of the local golf course, the three-bedroom house, with a screened-in, wraparound porch, had the makings of an ideal family retreat.

"I loved the look of the house from the outside," says Sherry. "It had a wonderful 1970s vibe. Unfortunately, the interior also had a 1970s vibe. Together, it was just too much." After spending a year planning the renovation, Sherry brought the home careening into the 21st century by tearing down walls and overhauling the kitchen and bathrooms. Adapting her signature "casual luxe" style to the beach, she "painted almost everything white" and upholstered deep, comfortable sofas in white Belgian linen. "I wanted it to feel like a beach house, but not too beachy," she says. "It needed to be welcoming, relaxed, but also functional, and not too precious."

After establishing a neutral color scheme, the designer experimented freely with textures, creating an understated symphony of sea grass, sheepskin, clapboard, and rattan. But, regardless of the interior's comfort and beauty, most of the family's time is spent on the screened-in porch, gazing out at the home's idyllic surroundings. "We live on that porch," says Sherry. "During the summer, it's where we eat meals, relax, and talk late into the evening." **L**



Designers Lisa Sherry, Michel Van Devender, and Kathryn Walker relax on the porch of Sherry's Bald Head Island home.



Because cars aren't permitted on Bald Head Island, visitors and residents travel about in electric golf carts. This custom paneled cart was a housewarming gift from Sherry's husband.



Sherry's neutral-toned living room is invigorated by a clever blend of woven textures.



## Lisa's

### FAVORITE BALD HEAD ISLAND EATERIES

1. MoJo's on the Harbor. Andrea and John create delicious local meals with fantastic views of the marina.
2. Shoals Club, where Jens greets you with his warm, inviting smile and the views of the ocean are spectacular.
3. The BHI Club and Will o' the Wisp for wine or beer and a light snack. Ask for Harper!

The designer's use of natural elements such as sea grass and sheepskin lend her home a sensibility that's at once classic and bohemian.





To add softness and dimension to plain rattan blinds, Sherry drybrushed them with a coat of whitewash.



Throughout her home, Sherry maintains an understated beach theme by subtly incorporating materials such as sand and seashells.



The reflective surface of a white-lacquered dining table transforms the home's abundant natural light into an architectural feature. An oversize capiz-shell chandelier provides a whimsical flourish.



Revealing her rigorous attention to detail, Sherry's coastal theme is extended even to her shimmering nautical tableware.





Sherry completely renovated the kitchen, creating an open floor plan ideal for entertaining. Exposed shelving supplies a sense of space and expansiveness.



Playful vignettes give the home a sense of warmth and personality.



An Eero Aarnio bubble chair imbues Sherry's bohemian decor with a witty dose of mod style.