



## ON THE HOUSE

**STYLE** 1952 island Colonial cottage

**SPACE** 1,800-square-foot, three-bedroom charmer that shares a St. Augustine-style courtyard with two other homes

**SETTING** a private compound on St. Simons' East Beach, a short bike ride away from the island's quaint shops and restaurants

**VIEW** Decks off the kitchen, master bedroom, and guest room overlook beautiful Bloody Marsh.

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debbie and  
brad weitz,  
owners of one  
of our favorite  
atlanta shops,  
let us steal  
some ideas  
from their old  
cottage on st.  
simons island,  
where they  
escape for  
weekends of  
all play,  
no work

THE WEITZES' POOL IS 10 FEET DEEP IN THE MIDDLE, MAKING IT SAFE TO JUMP IN FROM THE DECK JUST OFF THE KITCHEN.







PAINT TRIM BLACK TO FRAME THE VIEW.



**DESIGNER TRICK**

"Remember that there's more to a bookshelf than books," Debbie says. "Plates aren't just for cupboards," artwork isn't just for walls, and cool, heavy objects make good bookends.

**R**unning a business with your spouse has its pros and cons. Sure, the arrangement can simplify decision-making, but it can also

blur the line between work and play—just ask Debbie and Brad Weitz. For these owners of B.D. Jeffries, a home-furnishings and gifts boutique in Atlanta and Charlotte, “quality time together” has come to mean plowing through paperwork or trekking to trade shows.

When the couple realized how hard it was to make time for a proper vacation (no talking shop allowed), they knew the remedy would involve more than a

weekend getaway here and there. They needed a retreat where they could regularly relax.

So Debbie and Brad searched and found their answer—a recently renovated cottage one block from the beach on St. Simons Island, the largest of the Golden Isles off Georgia’s southern coast. Built in 1952, the 1,800-square-foot island Colonial had been moved to a different spot on the property to make room for two new, large five-bedroom villas.

But the cottage’s petite size sealed the deal for the Weitzes, who wanted to simplify. Today, the new houses and this old-school charmer share a palm tree-shaded courtyard and marsh views.

Debbie soon adopted “easy living” as her beach house style mantra. “In Atlanta, I’m constantly surrounded by so much stuff,” she says. “Here, I

**we love...**

**1. DEBBIE'S KITCHEN ISLAND**  
Outfitted with eight drawers (made to look like 18), the cypress-paneled island provides additional storage and warm texture. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Similar pendant light, Restoration Hardware; similar stool, Design Within Reach

**2. THAT PORCH!**  
Debbie and Brad enjoy winding down with a magazine or margarita while gazing at tranquil Bloody Marsh. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Pillows, West Elm; antlers, B.D. Jeffries

**3. THE TEXTURE OF PEA GRAVEL**  
It brings a pretty, Euro feel to a sultry Southern courtyard.

**4. BONUS STORAGE**  
Keith Summerour designed hidden cabinets beneath the steps to eliminate clutter. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Armchairs, Hickory Chair; throw pillows, Bella Studios (all available at B.D. Jeffries)

**CHEAP CHIC**  
For a splash of color, grommeted turquoise fabric panels on pegs dress the windows.



## 5 SEASIDE STYLE ESSENTIALS

Can't get enough of Debbie's natural, sophisticated look? Check out some of her favorite items from her shop. Visit [bdjeffries.com](http://bdjeffries.com).



**Nantucket Mirror,** \$775. "Natural driftwood pieces add an earthy twist to this classic round mirror," says Debbie.

**Tortoise Hurricane,** \$55, and **Votive,** \$20. "Made of glass tinted to look like a tortoise shell, these hurricane and votive holders are chic and animal-friendly!"



**Saturn Lamp and Shade,** \$485. "Although it's named for a planet, the tiny bumps on this glass orb remind me more of a sea creature."

**Rattan Pedestal,** \$265. "I'm a sucker for anything woven. This textured stool adds understated elegance to any room."



*By the Light of the Sea* (Verba Volant, 2008), by Jean-Loup Daraux. "This decorating book about Mediterranean villas makes me want to ditch it all and move to France."



wanted to keep things simple and calm." She stuck to a neutral palette of tans and whites, with an occasional punch of blue, to keep the mood serene and emphasize the marsh views. "I didn't want anything to take away from that," explains Debbie, who prefers to add interest with natural textures such as sisal rugs, hemp throws, and petrified-wood tables.

Of course, having your own shop from which to pull all the necessary pieces makes furnishing a home a lot easier—Debbie put her stamp on the place in less than eight weeks. A self-proclaimed pack rat, she admits she can get overwhelmed with all the options, but in deference to the spirit of the house, she "kept the design classic and the collecting to a minimum."

That's not to say the house escaped Debbie's penchant for accessorizing. "It's just a bit more restrained than my typical look," she says. Her favorite blue coral, for instance, takes a starring role in the stairwell bookcase alongside 18th-century French vellum books and antique English tea jars.

The only challenge was accommodating Brad's TV in the living room. "Some people think it's an eyesore," he says, "but it was the one thing I insisted on." Debbie mounted it above the fireplace then arranged seating for views of the marsh or the football game. Looks like she and Brad, in both business and pleasure, have mastered the art of compromise. ♣

## HOW TO ACCESSORIZE LIKE DEBBIE

- "Always add one or two unexpected objects. I love wood and building fragments, like the French wood scrollwork on my coffee table."
- "Choose items that have common elements such as color, texture, or origin. In the staircase bookshelf, I stuck with muted tones, which helps unify all the disparate elements."
- "Know when enough is enough. Pile on what you love, then edit away—just make sure to vary size, height, and scale. You don't have to fill the shelf. Group a few objects in the center and leave the ends open."
- "Keep the book piles low on coffee tables, and add height with found objects or flowers. One of our antique books is actually a handy box for the remote!"

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