



The Writer's Hideaway

TYBEE ISLAND

Writers' houses are often inspirational. They need to be. They are architectural muses for wordsmiths, offering motivation and creative inspiration to searching minds.

This island hideaway, the summer home of bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews, is an example of how a home's design can be enormously influential, in more ways than one. It is so wonderful that it's almost a narrative in itself.

Bought by the Atlanta-based Andrews and her husband, it was completely restored and remodeled in 2009, courtesy of the famous Tybee Island designer Jane Coslick. The name "Breeze Inn" may seem like a throwback to a much-loved cocktail of a certain shade, but it was in fact named as a nod to the fictional Breeze Inn Motel in Andrews' New York Times bestselling novel, *Savannah Breeze*.

In the novel, the Southern belle BeBe Loudermilk (we're loving the name) loses all her worldly possessions in a brief but disastrous relationship with the gorgeous Reddy, an investment counselor who turns out to be a con man. All that's left in her name is a ramshackle 1950s motor court called Breeze Inn on Tybee Island – an eccentric beach town that calls itself

"a drinking village with a fishing problem". In real life, Breeze Inn isn't a motor court but rather a chic beach hideaway, remodeled with a cocktail-style twist.

The 1940s-style cottage was fairly spartan, and painted egg-yolk yellow with circus-blue trim, when Andrews and her husband bought it; but it had the potential to be as much of a blockbuster as her books. Their aim was for it to resemble the Florida beach houses of the 1940s. With reclaimed heart pine floors throughout, reclaimed solid-wood doors with antique hardware, painted plank walls, hexagon tiled bathroom floors, and various vintage fixtures, it soon became a stylish and vibrant home. Entered via a cute white picket fence and a garden full of rustling palm trees, scented jasmine and blooming pink roses, the house transports visitors to a bygone era – albeit a very Southern one. Painted in a coolly chic mint shade, its architectural "jacket flap" is a hibiscus-pink front screened door – a fabulous old treasure from a New England antique market.

Inside, the island-bright colors continue with an enclosed apple-green porch, a navy and turquoise living room, and an inspirational

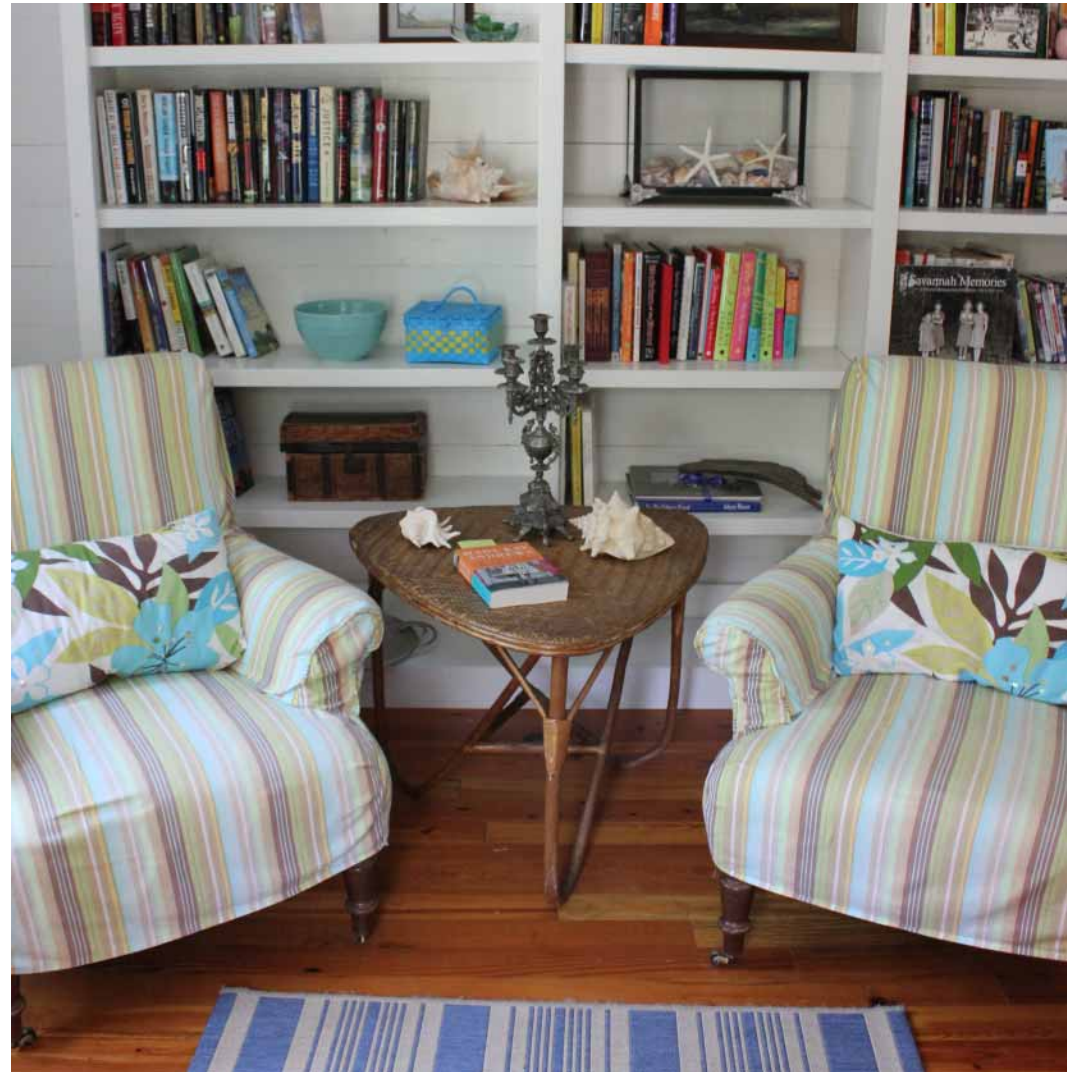




mint-green kitchen. The unifying element is timber, which brings the spaces together in a warm and natural way.

Filled with Jane Coslick's signature shades and Mary Jane Andrews' flea-market finds, it's not so much page-turning as head-turning in a wonderfully colorful way. It's not surprising that another of Mary Jane Andrews' bestsellers was called *The Fixer Upper*. It could have been written in Breeze Inn.





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