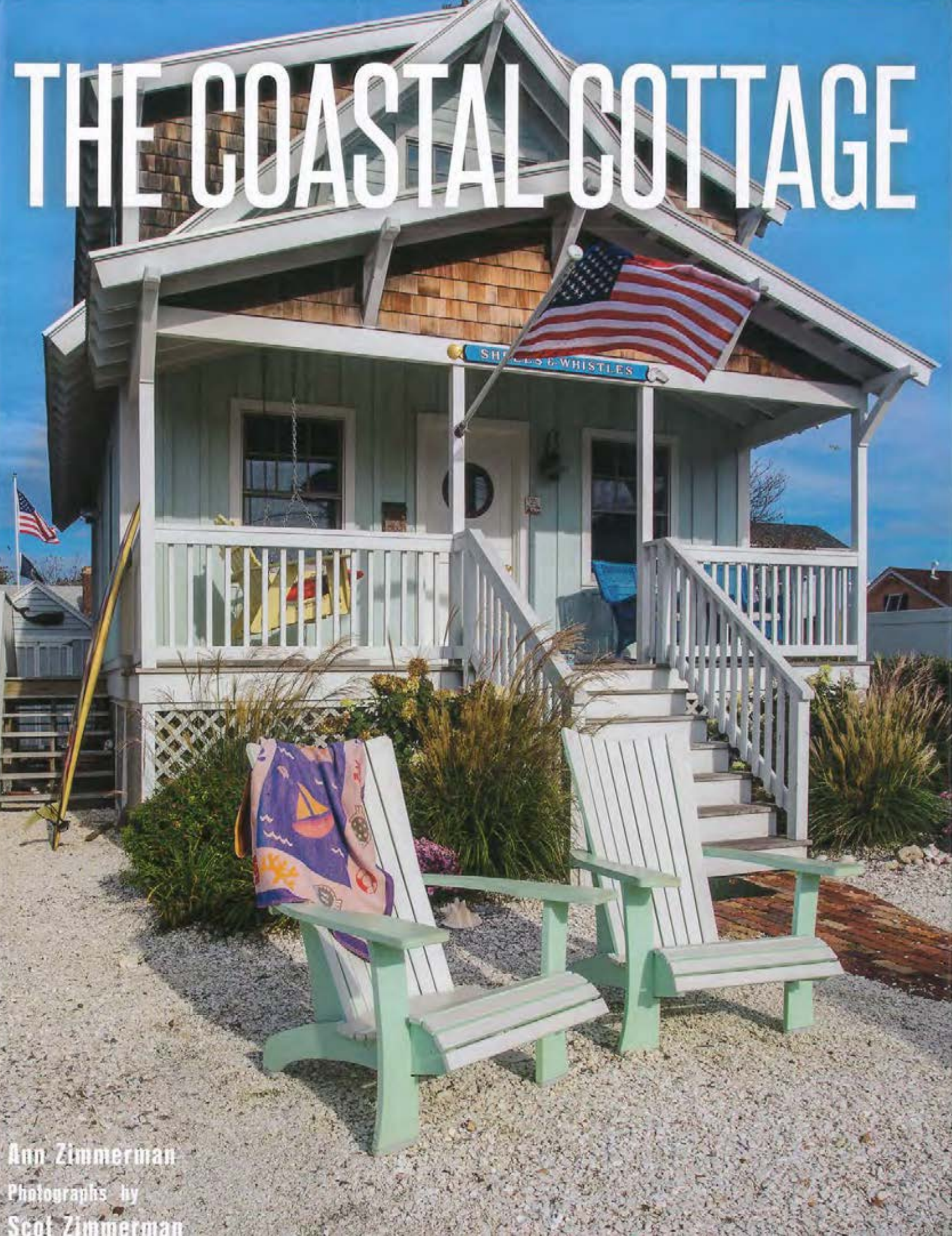


THE COASTAL COTTAGE



Ann Zimmerman
Photographs by
Scot Zimmerman

ROSES AND LAVENDER



Located on a point reaching out into Puget Sound, this coastal garden cottage is surrounded by roses, and lavender that date to before the home.

Whidbey Island, Washington, has a beautiful winding coast of beaches and inlets, and it offers a wonderful backdrop of evergreens and rolling land. Nestled in a carefully nurtured and thriving garden of roses and lavender that was on the land before the home was built, this board-and-batten white cottage looks out to the sound and Camano Island. Behind, the evergreens of the hillside are homes to bald eagles, great blue herons, and colorful songbirds that call as they fly over the cottage.

The home is oriented linearly, and with the varying roof pitches, it appears from a distance as an assemblage of tiny cottages. At the near end are the sitting area and kitchen, with a shed roof covering the porch nearest the water. The central portion has a welcoming front entry, and to the left of the door are a bedroom and a bath. Moving right, the lowered roof pitch makes it appear like a breezeway to the garage, but this section comprises the master bedroom. Above the garage, in what appears to be a caretaker's room, is a painter's studio and storage.



UPPER LEFT: Walking down the pathway from the front door one can soak in a view of where the beach curves inland from the point.

LEFT: A nook by the front entry provides convenient storage for hats, jackets, and beach gear.

In the sitting room, the row of paned glass windows captures the views in a panorama. With the furnishings clustered in a conversation grouping near the stove the room feels cozy, but at the same time the height of the room adds a sense of being open and unconfined. The Whidbey Island architect who designed the cottage is known for capturing the utmost in natural light, and here he vaulted the ceiling to the rafters. A horizontal board continues the line of the upper window frames and lowers the scale of the room to compensate for the high ceiling.



The accessories and row of shell sconces follow a seaside theme.



The kitchen is opposite the sitting room, and the kitchen island serves to separate the spaces. The décor continues the same color scheme of white with splashes of blue, and the same tone of wood used on the floor repeats on the tops of the island and counters. Pendants light the work surfaces and hang to the height of the horizontal elements in the room. The shell sconces continue from the sitting room to the kitchen to connect the spaces as a whole.

ABOVE: Built-in benches flank the long pedestal table with windows enclosing it on three sides. A chandelier dresses it up a bit.

OPPOSITE: The large island and counter provide ample workspace.





DESIGN TIP: Adding nooks and shelves makes a meaningful difference by making the home more interesting. They add charm and allow personal touches like showing off home-canned pickles.

The kitchen has 1930s-era charm because of the detailing in the woodwork and the open shelves. The appliances by Heartland, while new, are vintage in their appearance and scaled just right.

OPPOSITE: Combining the best of both the past and present, the kitchen has the charm of a bygone era but an efficient design and brand-new appliances.



Between the front entry and the sitting room and kitchen are a bedroom and the main bathroom for the home. Past the entry is the master bedroom suite with an office area and a half bathroom.

OPPOSITE: In the master bedroom suite, a built-in desk makes use of corridor space for a home office. A framed doorway and low wall give seeming separation to the bedroom without blocking air circulation or natural light.

ABOVE: The painted iron headboard and quilted spread add a timeless feel.



ABOVE: A stone path leads around to the back of the house and expands into a patio in the garden.

OPPOSITE: A wicker seating area on a covered porch off the kitchen overlooks the roses and out to Puget Sound.

