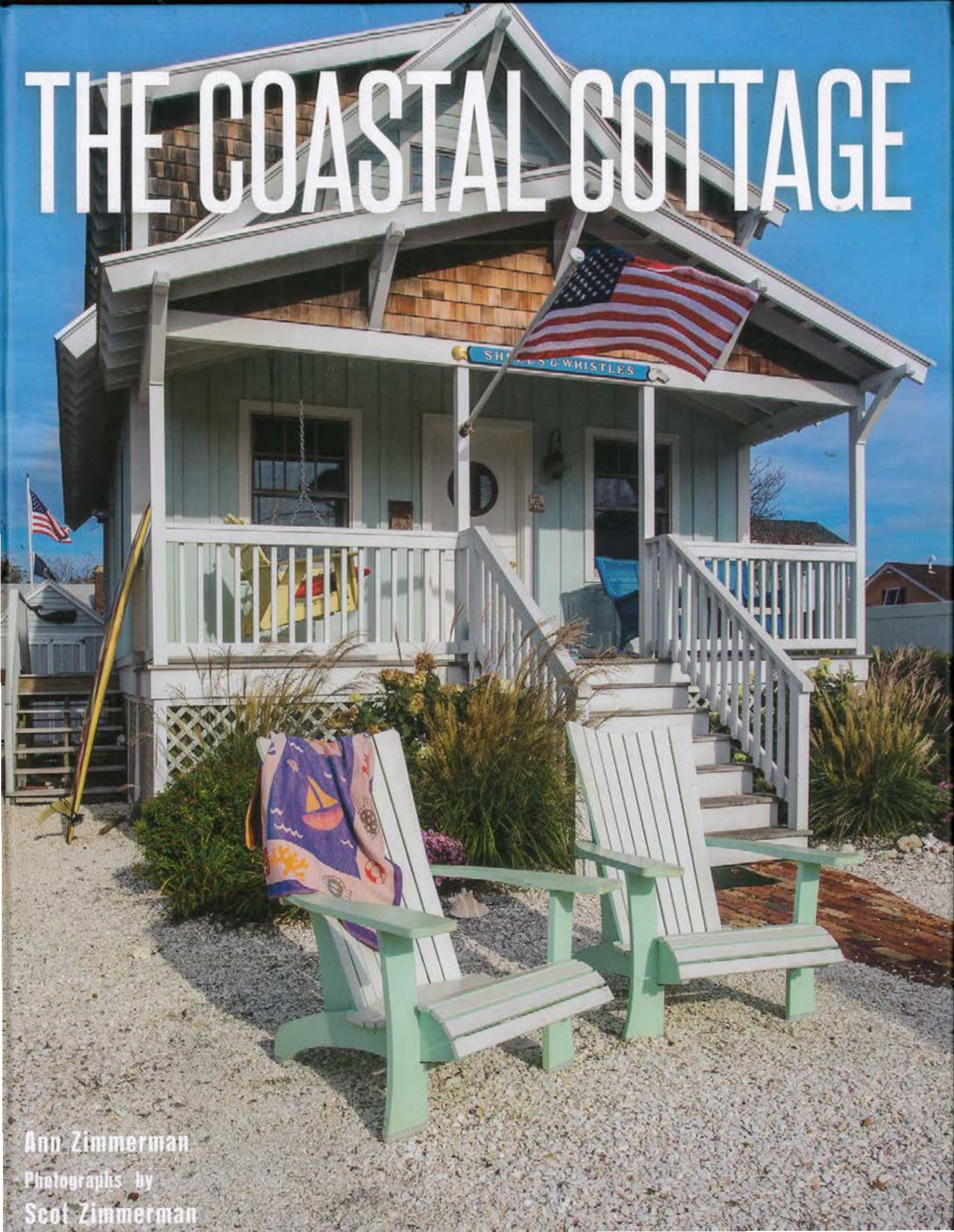


THE COASTAL COTTAGE



Ann Zimmerman
Photographs by
Scot Zimmerman

PLACE REMEMBERED



Ties to a turn-of-the-century fisherman's lodge can be seen in this Whidbey Island cottage with its broad porches, hipped roof, and traditional island-green color.

The site for the cottage was a natural choice. The homeowner's family has a vacation cottage in the same small private enclave on Whidbey Island's curving beach by Greenbank. He grew up exploring and loving the area.

At the turn of the twentieth century, there had been a fisherman's lodge, the Greenbank Hotel, on this property, where guests came to stay and tried their luck at crabbing and fishing. Photographs and stories presented clear images of what it looked like: a deep wraparound porch, hipped roof, and the traditional island building style popular between 1890 and 1930. The small hotel was painted green, one of just a few color choices to be found on the island at that time. The fisherman's lodge became the inspiration for this cottage, which the homeowner calls the Greenbank Lodge.



The wooden clapboard home has a generous overhang to shade the upper windows midday, a deep covered porch furnished with two large picnic tables, and views to the beach and the water. Two doors open to unite the interior with the porch for an easy flow.

The home delivers on the homeowners' wish for simplicity to be the heart of how they live—to be at ease, with no pretensions. The design also recognizes the family's desire as to how they like to

ABOVE: A compass rose is inlaid in the wooden floor between the adjoining dining and living areas.

RIGHT: Not to be overlooked, the family pet has positioned himself strategically by the entrance to the kitchen and with the hallway behind him that leads to the side door, two bedrooms, and a den.

OPPOSITE: Sunrise is through the sitting room windows, and with the morning's cool temperatures, the upholstery and cushions bring welcome warmth.





For the transition to evening, the sconces and chandelier add to the ambience, as does the glow of the lighting in the glass-fronted upper cabinet where some of the most interesting glassware and serving pieces are displayed.

spend their time. The front entry opens to a space that spreads the width of the cottage. At one side is the sitting area, with seating gathered around the fireplace and mementoes of the family's experiences and travels, and on the other side is a big dining table for hosting the family and friends with whom they love to share the experience of staying at the beach on the island.

The high ceiling, transom windows, and clerestory fill the room with natural light and views to the beach, Puget Sound, and Camano Island, and at the same time make it feel spacious. Whidbey Island is far enough north that the change of season brings short days, and sitting in front of the fire is perfect during the long evenings.

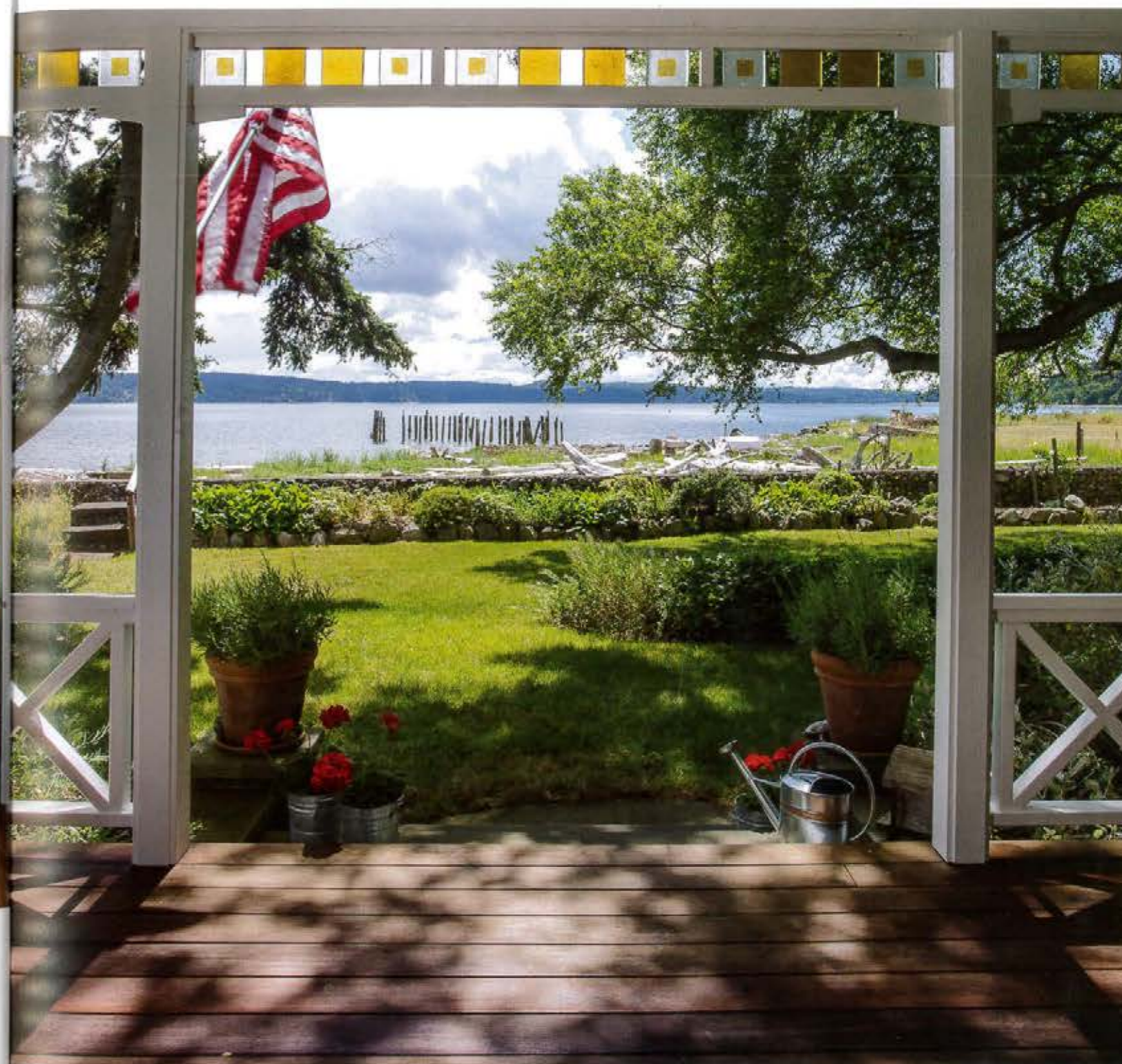
The dining room demonstrates carefully planned circulation. The double front doors and a side door open to the wraparound porch, and the opening to the kitchen serves multiple functions: a bar for seating, a pass-through to the dining room for setting the table and serving, and a place to lay out a buffet. It also shields any meal preparation clutter in the kitchen.

The long galley kitchen has work surfaces on both sides and plenty of storage to make it highly functional.



LEFT: The rear of the home is quiet, and a writing desk by the window offers a place to journal or catch up with correspondence.

ABOVE: The family room to the rear of the cottage, with its low wooden ceiling, has a different feel from the front sitting room. It's a place for private relaxation like reading or needlework.



With sailors, fishermen, gardeners, and beachcombers coming and going, the working entrance to the home is on the side and connects with the mudroom. Surrounding the bench is additional storage in the form of hooks and a shelf carved and shaped like that of a boat. The home's architect, Ross Chapin, FAIA, has written that in a small home, the space has to perform. "As in a boat, everything has to be well fitted with a place and purpose."

OPPOSITE: Benches make it possible to change footwear before going inside.

ABOVE: Looking out the doorway, a low stone wall protects the grass and plants from Puget Sound's waves at high tide. The residual pylons from an old private dock in the distance and the carefully conserved grand old elm tree serve as reminders of the place's history.