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PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK LOHMAN

# A Nostalgically Nautical Home

When her childhood friend's home needed a makeover, this designer sprang into action.

**[ABOVE]** Roxanne had a lot of fun designing the family room. By mixing vintage furniture with stylish accents, she created a sophisticated space. "We had the cabinetry fabricated in teak, so it feels just like Newport Beach [California]," she says. "I love red, and the red leather with the sailboat drapery just 'sings'! I think it's everyone's favorite part of the home."



**ABOVE, LEFT** This gorgeous dining room is fit for a queen! Roxanne couldn't be prouder of how it turned out. She loves the antique Italian table, and she believes the Scalamandré fabric "with the billowy white and blue flowers" gives the room "the most charming afternoon glow." Because the double doors lead to a patio area, it's easy for the homeowners to let in the fresh air and sunshine.

**RIGHT** When it comes to people's artwork tastes, Roxanne knows that they vary. "Art, of course, is so personal," she says. The art she chooses for each space "depends on the individual clients." To find the perfect pieces, she turns to several diverse sources. "Some art I have custom-made by fine artists whom I've grown to love over the years. Sometimes, even college students do fine artwork for me." In this case, the homeowners, themselves, created the stunning artwork hanging above the French country buffet table.

*Roxanne Packham, the principal designer at Sunset and Magnolia*, forged a strong friendship with Jane when they were just kindergartners in Newport Beach, California.

"We bonded quickly over play dates," Roxanne says. "Her family was a sailing family, and I thought it was the coolest thing that they lived on the water. I loved to go over to their house when we were little and play on the dock. She was smarter and more serious than me, and I was the silly one, always chattering and giggling."

Now, more than 30 years later, Roxanne and Jane still treasure their friendship.

**BELOW** Thanks to their fathers, Roxanne and Jane both have a love of sailboats. "Our dads decided to get us sabots (a type of small sailboat) for our sailing lessons. Jane got a beautiful, blue one, and I got an orange one," Roxanne says. When picking out designs for the home, the friends knew they needed to include a sailboat pattern somewhere. "I fell in love with the Pierre Frey sailboat print when I was at Maison & Objet in Paris, and I immediately thought of Jane's home!" says Roxanne.



Consequently, when Jane and her partner decided to transform their home's interior, they knew exactly whom to call.

"It's so fun to design for someone you've known for so long," Roxanne says.

The couple told Roxanne that "they wanted a French, beachy, elegant design with antiques and some family pieces mixed in."

Because Jane and her partner have children and pets, Roxanne made sure to use durable materials and colorful accents.

"I wanted to do something fresh, but traditional, that would take advantage of the beautiful views. Whether looking outside to the patio, the foliage, the sky or the golf course, I always like to utilize the healing powers of the beautiful world outside."

#### NAUTICAL NUANCES

Roxanne and Jane added nautical touches to the home's design to pay tribute to their surroundings.

"Growing up in Newport Beach was central to both our design aesthetics, so the design choices were very organic. In a way, it feels as if the fabrics chose themselves," Roxanne says. "We used the colors of the sky on a sunny day as our palette, because that brings Jane joy. It's home, so it's comforting, calming and soothing."

Although the friends wanted the home to have a nautical theme, they didn't choose typical beach décor.

"When we grew up here, in Newport, it was all casual—flip-flops, beach days and water-related activities," Roxanne points out. "I love everything 'beachy,' but we didn't use a lot of beach décor, because that was an understood element; and Jane and her partner like a bit more formality." **CB**

**BELOW** Tucked away behind the kitchen is this private alcove, featuring the homeowners' artwork and an antique English chair. "We're still adding things, so I'm not sure we'll ever finish, but the big things took a year!" Roxanne says about the project.



## Stylish Selections

Roxanne Packham goes to great lengths to find fun patterns and unexpected colors for her clients.

"I sit with clients for hours in the beginning after our initial 'vision meeting,' just to show them fabrics," Roxanne explains. "I get to see the expressions on their faces, which reveal what they instinctively love."

This crucial part of the process ensures that "each client's home represents that client's own, unique vibe."

It also helps Roxanne "find the common ground when one spouse likes one color more than the other."

Picking the perfect design elements can be challenging, but Roxanne says it's worth the effort.

"It takes a few hours, and sometimes, it takes me another trip through the design center, but I want my clients' faces to light up. I can see that and feel that."



**[ABOVE]** "My friend and her partner are very fun and lively, and these colors just speak to their vibrant personalities," Roxanne says. "She loves violet, honeydew melon green, chartreuse, lilac and grape colors; so, for the primary bedroom and bathroom, we chose some unusual pairings from some English fabric designers that I love," Roxanne says. Who wouldn't want to wake up in an elegant space like this?

**[BELOW, LEFT]** This bright, airy kitchen beckons guests to pull up a barstool and stay for a while. "I really want my clients, especially these two, to love everything," Roxanne says. "I just wanted them to be happy!"

**[BELOW, RIGHT]** The primary bedroom's sitting area looks like a cozy place to kick back and relax. Because Jane loves leopard print, Roxanne wanted to incorporate these chairs into the design. What a good friend!

**[ABOVE, RIGHT]** Does a bathroom have any right to be this charming? Roxanne says the secret to picking great artwork and lighting is to find "an antique or art dealer you trust." Tony Buccola, one of Roxanne's friends from the University of Southern California, serves as her reliable source for exquisite décor. "He has a shop called Antonio's Bella Casa in Los Angeles and Newport Beach. He's my 'secret' for those who can appreciate—and have the means for investing in—very fine quality," Roxanne says.

**[BELOW, RIGHT]** There are plenty of intricate details to appreciate in this bedroom, and they really pop against the lilac grass cloth from Thibaut. For an extra touch of "glam," Roxanne chose the vintage sconce from a consignment shop called Magnolia Mews.

