

# CHESAPEAKE HOME

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THE MID-ATLANTIC'S HOUSE AND GARDEN MAGAZINE

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## SHORE *fine living*

### Cottage Style

BY PAM GEORGE

**J**ANET AND DON WALKER'S two-bedroom cottage in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware is cozy, comfortable, and quaint—there's nothing stuffy about it. Pastel chenille bedspreads, breezy wicker chairs, and bright floral pillows are as stylish as they are nostalgic. The couple, who purchased the two-cottage parcel in 1976, decided to expand the larger home rather than demolish it and rebuild. "A new home would have taken away from the cottage style on the street," Janet Walker explains.

Walker is well versed in the cottage style. In 1986, she opened an antiques shop, Early Attic, in the guesthouse on the couple's property. The shop specializes in vintage wicker, which abounds in beachside cottages.

Rooted in the Victorian aesthetic and popularized by designer Rachel Ashwell's Shabby Chic brand, cottage style continues to be a hot decorating trend. The cottage craze isn't confined to 1920s bungalows and cabins. Just ask Harriett Bosiack, co-owner of Seabrook Classics, a furniture company in Seabrook, South Carolina. "So many people have been moving down here and building big houses with lots of windows," says Bosiack, whose company slogan is "casual living, cottage charm." "They want light, airy colors, and they've gotten rid of their formal living rooms. They want fun." Adds Walker, "It's not the size, it's the personality."

According to DeeDee Phillips, co-owner along with husband Paul of Carolina Street, the cottage style works well in second homes, where people want to get away from formality to a place that doesn't have them worrying



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