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## HOUSE NOTES

When Dallas-based friends Claire Dewar, a retired realtor, and designer Cathy Kincaid attended the Aspen Ideas Festival together in 2011, there was a problem with their summer getaway: “It was poorly decorated,” says Dewar, who interpreted the house’s subpar design as a divine signal to buy one of her own.

So during their time in town, the two walked the streets, talking and scouting. And on one of those neighborhood reconnaissances, they spotted this home—close enough to walk to downtown, but far enough away to be serenaded by the Roaring Fork River.

At first glance, they thought the house might be unsalvageable. “When we walked in, it was like a ’70s house—and not a great one,” Kincaid recalls. But Dewar saw beyond the *Brady Bunch*-era drawbacks. “It had the right kind of floor plan, and I liked that the living space has light coming in from four different directions,” she says.

What a difference a nip and tuck make. To start, Dallas-based architect David Benners kept the home’s same 2,430-square-foot footprint but reinvented

a few areas, including the master bath, kitchen and covered outdoor deck. “Before, the house had interesting bones, but it had been let go,” Benners says. “It was an exercise in editing what was there and cleaning it up.” New sliding doors peep out onto the sleek alfresco pool Dewar added, and to lush, leafy gardens beyond.

She of course enlisted Kincaid to helm the interior redo. She found herself channeling what the friends refer to as “a Shelter Island aesthetic.”

“With a second home, there’s not as much pressure for it to be perfect,” Kincaid says. (Her book *The Well Adorned Home: Making Luxury Livable* is new from Rizzoli). “You can make it a little more fun.”

Throughout the interior, Kincaid injected a feminine sense of buttoned-up yet breezy East Coast style, reminiscent of Cape Cod, Southampton and, yes, Shelter Island. A playful color palette of blues and greens adds levity and especially pops in a town where mountain getaways typically brandish a more lodge-like feel. The effect? A beach-cottage ambience that’s always sunny, even when the flakes are falling. »

» **Pool** Evergreen trees and towering, purple lupine flowers flank a streamlined pool, turning the garden into a de facto spa. Adorning the lounge chairs with monogrammed towels is an ode to the more traditional stylings of the homeowner’s full-time residence in Dallas.