

HeyRhody PRESENTS

WEST SIDE BAR'S NEW CHEF | YOUR APRIL MUST-DO'S | GREEN EATING FOR EARTH DAY

# PROVIDENCE

FREE

## *Fresh ideas*

**LOCAL DESIGN  
INSPIRATION  
AND RESOURCES  
FOR HOME AND  
GARDEN**

- This Month's Rhody Gem

**PLUS:**  
Celebrating  
Poetry Month



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# CONTENTS

## News & Culture

- 11 International conference brings printmakers to PVD
- 14 **OP-ED:** Behind the Washington Bridge failure, AKA Bridgegate
- 16 **INFLUENCER:** Meet a radio host with something to say
- 20 **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS:** Hyper local news and contact listings
- 24 **CALENDAR:** This month's must-do's

## Home & Style

- A15 **HOME:** A master bath in Tiverton gets a coastal renovation
- A20 The benefits of potting benches and perennials
- A22 **STYLE:** An East Side interior designer on making spaces balanced
- A24 **ENTERTAINING:** Blooms and books set the stage for hosting a luncheon
- A26 **RHODY GEM:** A plant shop grows in the West End
- A28 **HOMEBUYER'S GUIDE:** Things to know before buying or selling

## Feature

- 59 Whether performed or read, poetry can be found in every corner of the city

## Food & Drink

- 69 Elevated dessert event returns to Downtown
- 72 **EXPERIENCE:** Mexican dishes made with love in EP and Pawtucket
- 74 **IN THE KITCHEN:** A West Side bar's new chef brings a taste of the tropics
- 77 **RHODY EATS: RESTAURANT GUIDE**
- 78 **FOOD TRENDS:** Plant-based dining updates for Earth Day
- 80 **PIC OF PVD**



A 3

Photo by Andrea Pietrangeli, HEYDT HOME

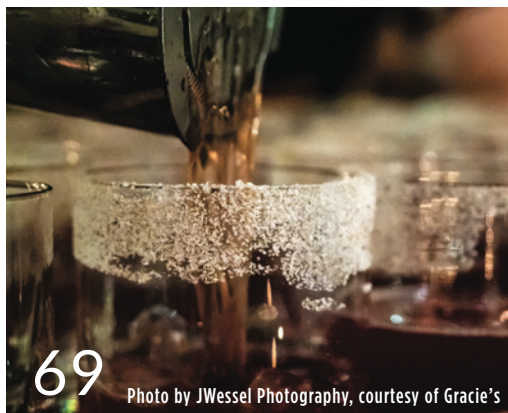
## Cover Story: Fresh Ideas

Local design inspiration and resources for home and garden



A 20

Photo by Carli Alves



69

Photo by JWessel Photography, courtesy of Gracie's



59

Photo courtesy of LitArts RI

**ON THE COVER:** An East Side living room is a rhapsody in blue.

Photo by Joseph Keller Photography, prop styling by Caroline Woodward, interior designer Corey Low Interiors



# COTTAGE GOALS

*a wakefield tng home feels twice its size thanks to streamlined updates*

BY ANDREA E. MCHUGH







*good vibes goods*

Four independently owned stores for unique home accents:

**A GRACIOUS SOUL**  
Cranston & East Greenwich

**BALI BUNGALOW**  
Providence

**CHRISTINA'S LTD.**  
Westerly

**WALD & SEA**  
Newport



“Less is more,” is how the saying goes, but when Ara and Pamela Millette purchased a 285-square-foot cottage just steps from the sea at Mary Carpenter’s Beach Meadow in Wakefield, the mother-daughter duo were ready to test the bounds of exactly how much “more” they could get out of their tiny new home.

The Millettes turned to Bernadette Heydt, an interior designer and owner of HEYDT HOME, a Newport-based interior design firm with a distinct focus on creating, remodeling, and furnishing both residential and commercial spaces – especially compact ones. “Our design ethos revolves around the transformative power of minimalism, where less becomes more, and functionality seamlessly blends with style,” explains Heydt, who works alongside her husband, master carpenter Andrea Pietrangeli. Where one might have seen a tiny, tired, two-bedroom home with nothing but limitations, Heydt saw a petite (pink!) palace with possibilities.

Tasked by her clients to turn the space into a modern, fully functional family home, Heydt was mindful of making every inch count while also making the home ADA-compliant to ensure accessibility and comfort. “Every element within the interior serves a distinct purpose, ensuring that the space feels open, efficient, and welcoming,” explains Heydt. She started by raising the ceilings and adding exposed beams overhead, then installed light-hued wide plank pine wood floors throughout. True to her design firm’s signature style,

**Distinctive features include vaulted beam ceilings, a Dutch entry door, porcelain slab kitchen countertops, and properly scaled/storage furnishings that create a spacious feel**

## big ideas

Even if a 285-square-foot cottage isn’t for you, there are still take-aways applicable to any sized home. Here are ideas to get started and resources around the state to help make them happen. • By Elyse Major

### LET IT GO

Turning the task of decluttering into a game could be just the ticket! In the *Minimalist Rulebook: 16 Rules for Living with Less*, Joshua Fields Millburn puts fun spins on chores, like finding someone to be your purge buddy; hosting a photo scanning party; and sorting things into piles of essentials, non-essentials, and junk. Similarly, the 90/90 rule prompts this key question: have you or will you use something in 90 days? If the answer is no and it’s in decent condition, consider donating it to a worthy organization. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island has a list of clean, odorless items they’ll accept posted to BigSRI.org; they even offer curbside pickup statewide, and a tax receipt. Another route is to sell gently used things at a consignment shop or ecommerce website (to possibly fund Refresh a Room!).

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island**, Providence

**The Creative Reuse Center of RI**, East Providence

**South County Habitat ReStore**, Charlestown

### GET ORGANIZED

Once you’ve decided what brings you joy, having a professional organizer create storage solutions can be a worthwhile expense. Beyond closets, consultants can help make sense of everything, from pantry items, to medicine cabinets, to the nightmares that are garages and basements. Many offer free in-home consultations, too.

**Closettec, Inc.**, North Smithfield

**Inspired Closets**, East Greenwich

**NEAT Method**, Providence

**The Nest**, Providence (for closets)

**Organized Abode**, Westerly

### REFRESH A ROOM

After a cold winter, there’s no better mood booster than something new and colorful in a room, whether it’s a plant or a custom accent like fabric Roman shades or a reupholstered chair. Try out DIY skills by painting a piece of unfinished furniture (Knock on Wood) to match your new scheme.

**All About Redecorating**, Newport

**Cottage Chic Decor**, Wakefield

**East Coast Designs**, East Greenwich

**Fabric Gallery**, North Kingstown

**Jessica Hagen Fine Art**, Newport

**Knock on Wood Furniture RI**, Smithfield

### HOME IMPROVEMENTS

If you’re ready for larger scale modification, Little Rhody is rich with talent and businesses to help you make changes, whether it’s new cabinetry, a door, or a wall coming down.

**Arnold Lumber**, Bristol & Wakefield

**Cole Cabinet Co. Inc.**, Cranston

**Design by Keri**, Coventry

**Douglas Lumber**, Smithfield

**Dzyna Signature Kitchen & Bath**, Portsmouth

**DiStefano Brothers Construction**, Wakefield

**East Coast Designs**, East Greenwich

**Fagan Door**, Coventry

**McCormick Home Improvement**, Warwick

**Michelle Lee Designs**, Johnston

### SPRING CLEANING

Why not treat yourself to a fresh start by hiring a residential cleaning service?

**Level Up Cleaning Services**, Cranston





A crisp white has the remarkable ability to visually expand any room while also acting as a blank canvas, allowing other design elements to take center stage



the interior is characterized by clean lines, a neutral color palette, and rich textures. To maintain a sense of spaciousness and clutter-free environment, Heydt carefully chose furniture with storage capabilities to complement the overall decor.

Rattan dining chairs, bamboo window treatments, a handmade bamboo dining pendant light, and vintage family photographs (many taken at waterside locales) collectively evoke a sense of seaside charm and simple luxury. “The synergy between minimalistic

The fully equipped kitchen features an LED-illuminated coffee bar and custom drying rack shelves. Mantra cabinets are from Riverhead Building Supply in Middletown.





simplicity and coastal chicness results in an interior that is not only visually captivating, but also highly functional,” explains Heydt. “It embodies the idea that less can be more, demonstrating that a thoughtfully curated blend of design elements can transform a compact space into a coastal oasis of both style and comfort.”

In a calculated move, the living space extends to the exterior, merging indoor and outdoor living. A unique railing bar with a trio of stools provides an idyllic spot for cocktails on



*try this at home*

- OPT FOR FURNITURE WITH STORAGE
- USE GRAVEL TO ZONE OUTDOOR AREAS
- REPLACE HARDWARE, EVEN FAUCETS
- LIGHTEN WITH BAMBOO SHADES
- NAME YOUR ABODE AND POST IT

**ABOVE:** Storage beds and pendant lighting over nightstands saves surface space

**LEFT:** The bamboo dining pendant light was an Etsy find.



the porch, while a white marble gravel patio accommodates a dining lounge that invites both quiet mornings in the salty air and decompressing at sunset.

From the outset, the home's existing outdoor shower and wrap-around porch captured Heydt's attention. "Our redesign involved relocating the porch's entry to the front of the building, providing a more inviting approach," she says. The shower was meticulously sanded, then refreshed with white paint, gold hardware, and a handy shelf for amenities, giving it a crisp, modern vibe. "These changes not only preserved the charm of the original features but also added a touch of contemporary elegance to the overall design."



Of the project, Bernadette Heydt says, "it's a testament to our commitment to innovative design in tiny homes."



Photos by Andrea Pietrangeli, HEYDT HOME





The name “Sea La Vie” both captures the homeowners’ coastal surroundings while also paying tribute to their French-Canadian heritage



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## Get Rhody Style

Ideas and resources for making the most of living in the Ocean State.

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### All Natural

Heydt suggests incorporating native plants, like seagrass, into your landscaping to create a natural, coastal look. “It not only adds to the Ocean State vibe, but also supports local biodiversity,” she says. Consider swapping traditional mulch for beach sand. “It acts as a moisture barrier for your plants, and adds a nod to the coastal environment.”

### Shop Small

Heydt believes local, mom-and-pop hardware stores, like Newport Hardware, are gems. “It’s one of the oldest hardware stores in town. What sets it apart is not just its longevity, but also the personal touch you experience when you walk in,” she explains. Best of all, she adds, it provides everything you’d expect from a big box store but with a charming, local touch. “It’s a small business with a big heart, making it one of our favorite spots in town.”

### True Colors

The Color House, a paint and design retailer with five locations in Rhode Island, specializes in finding the perfect shade of paint every time. “If you have a specific color in mind that isn’t readily available in their shop, they’ll go the extra mile to make it happen,” says Heydt. “A great example of this personalized service was when Pamela Millette had a silk blouse in the perfect pastel pink shade. We took that blouse to The Color House in Middletown and their expert team skillfully matched it for the exterior color of the cottage.”

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Finally, the home was dubbed “Sea La Vie,” (meaning “sea life” in French). “In Rhode Island, giving your home a name is a cherished tradition that adds a unique touch to your living space,” says Heydt. “This tradition allows homeowners to infuse character and personality into their homes, making them feel like a true part of the Rhode Island community.”