

BY ANGELINA KAUL • PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANA HOFF

# Farmhouse

# by the Sea

This seaside home borrows elements from farmhouse style for a cozy escape.

**Downtown Bethany, Delaware**, holds a charming row of old and new beach cottages. These homeowners wanted to give their coastal cottage a farmhouse-style look, so they turned to designer Marnie Oursler of Marnie Custom Homes. “The goal of this home was to incorporate beach-house cottage charm in a contemporary way,” says Marnie.

Classic elements of farmhouse style, including the popular gambrel roof and large front porches with white railings, were added to the exterior of the home. Marnie also chose an entry door with an oval window overhead, a wide stairway, black-trimmed windows and farmhouse-style garage doors to complete the look.

River rocks keep the lawn simplified. An exterior shower provides a space to clean up after spending the day at the beach. The house is accessed through the lower level in the mudroom before entering the main floors. “Everything you see is on the exterior is weather resistant,” Marnie says. Not only is Marnie’s design functional, but it is also aesthetically pleasing.

She brought the same design idea on the inside where the combination of a surf-scene mural, cable railings and skylights along the stairway emphasize the coastal theme in the home. An 18-inch kitchen island built with an integrated walnut counter provides extra seating. Oversized pendants, open shelving along the windows and bench seating open the space. The exposed wood ceiling beams, shiplap and a neutral palette round out the unique contemporary farmhouse style for this charming cottage.



»»» FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MARNIE CUSTOM HOMES, VISIT [MARNIEHOMES.COM](http://MARNIEHOMES.COM). «««