



HOUSE OF CRAFT × DIOR

CURATED BY CARINE ROITFELD
EXHIBITION BY BRIGITTE NIEDERMAIR

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The Idyllic Beach House in *The Summer I Turned Pretty* Is a Real Home in Wilmington, North Carolina

Set decorator Beth Robinson shares details on the interiors, including where to buy the wallpaper in Belly's room.

BY KELLY ALLEN | PUBLISHED: JUL 14, 2023 10:00 AM EDT

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Many good coming-of-age stories involve a summer full of possibilities and a tight-knit group of friends. *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, based on author Jenny Han's 2009 novel of the same name, has both. But another vital factor is where it takes place: an epic **beach house**. While the idyllic home is set in the fictional town of Cousins Beach, it actually exists in **Wilmington, North Carolina**, where many scenes throughout the Prime Video series were shot.

The show—which is finally back for its second season—centers on Isabel "Belly" Conklin and the love triangle she falls into with Conrad and Jeremiah Fisher, two brothers she grew up spending every summer with at Cousins Beach. Han had a lot of beaches in mind when she wrote the story, including Nags Head, Virginia Beach, the Hamptons, and Cape Cod. "That's part of the reason why people can read the book and feel like it's their beach," Han told [Prime Video](#).



PRIME VIDEO

This beach home actually exists in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Naturally, the actual home needed to have the same universal coastal feeling. "It's a summer sanctuary for the two families," season one set decorator Beth Robinson tells *House Beautiful*. She explains: "The rooms are large and well curated throughout. It isn't pretentious but rather warm and welcoming. It is the kind of place where you can walk in from the beach and put your sandy feet on the coffee table."



DANA HAWLEY

The beach house features a long dock, where many of the characters have late-night chats.

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A transitional Colonial—not *too* shingle style to scream New England, nor a modern structure that might suggest Miami—is the perfect spot. Outside, the home features gray shingles, white columns, an infinity pool, an outdoor shower (a dream!), and a dock. The lush landscaping ensures the setting feels like a summertime fantasy come to life. "Our character Susannah [Conrad and Jeremiah's mom] loves to garden, and there are always fresh flowers throughout the house," says Teresa Mastropierro, the production designer for season one. "Our greens department literally transformed the landscape around the house. I think we bought every last hydrangea plant in the state."

To make the interiors feel connected to the outdoors, the color palette is made up of creams and soft greens like celadon with navy and coral accents. Everything inside was carefully selected to make the home feel welcoming and lived-in through generations. An antique pine table in the kitchen accommodates both families and acts as a gathering place before and after summer activities. A small antique ladder hanging on the kitchen wall was envisioned as a tool the kids used when they were younger to grab snacks off the upper shelves. In the dining room, a china cabinet is filled with antique heirlooms.



PRIME VIDEO

The kitchen features hand-painted tiles and plenty of antiques.

For Belly's room, Han envisioned a blue and white room with toile wallpaper that Susannah decorated for her. "I chose [Ocean Toile by Schumacher](#), which illustrates life under the sea and is based on an 18th-century document," Robinson says. "The paintings in the room [by [artist Amy Elizabeth Stuckey](#)] are meant to depict Belly as a child swimming underwater as a toddler and jumping into the pool as an adolescent."



PRIME VIDEO VIA YOUTUBE

Belly's beach house bedroom includes an iron bed frame and Schumacher's Ocean Toile wallcovering.

A few other spots in Wilmington are highlighted in the show, including Wrightsville Beach, Padgett Station, and Russell's Quik Stop, the [Wilmington Star-News](#) reports. So while you can't say you're actually at Cousins Beach, you can live out your [coastal summer dreams](#) by exploring the charming town.

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