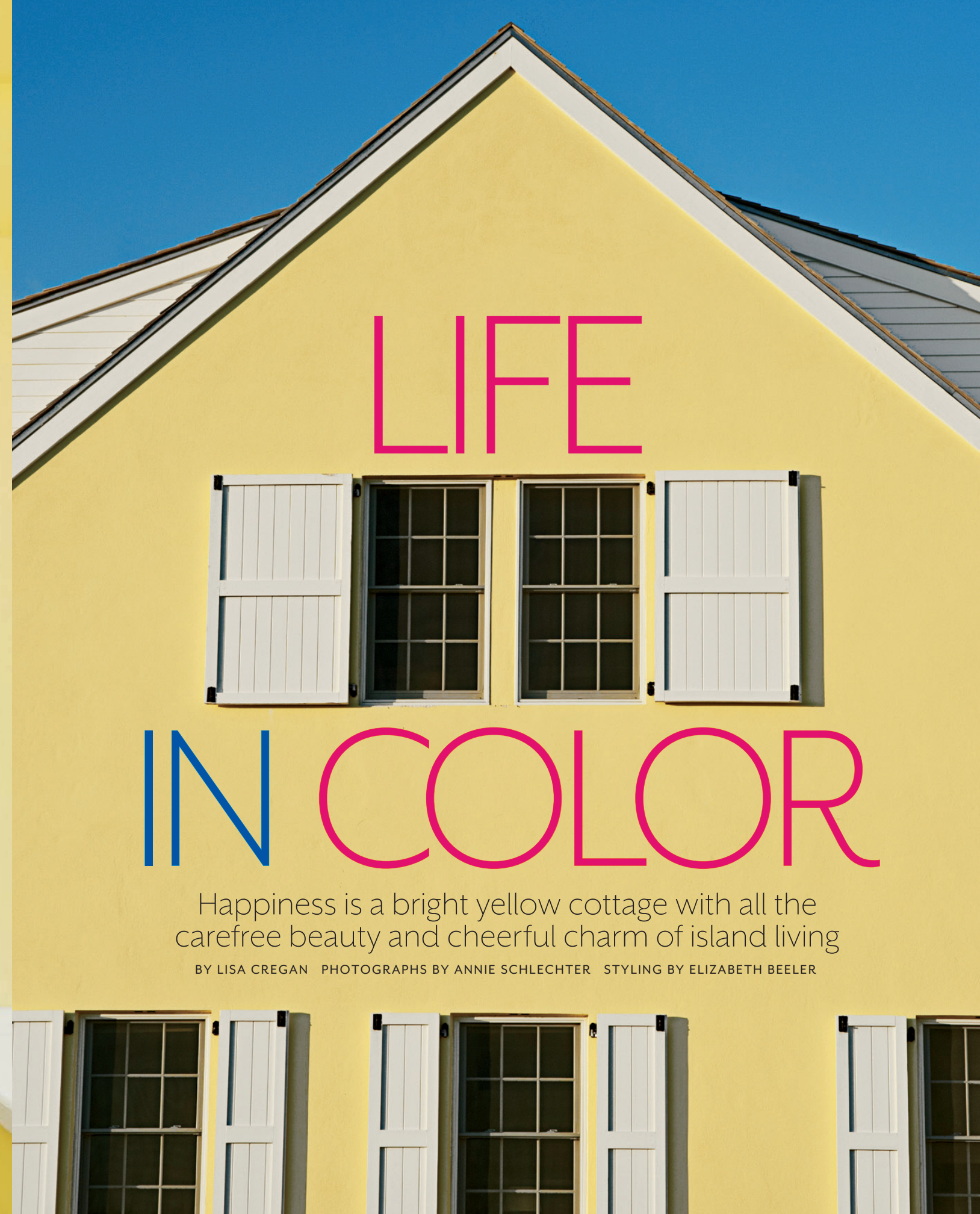


The exterior's marigold hue is custom; for something similar, try Farrow & Ball's Dayroom Yellow. The chairs are from Amazon.



Happiness is a bright yellow cottage with all the carefree beauty and cheerful charm of island living

BY LISA CREGAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNIE SCHLECHTER STYLING BY ELIZABETH BEELER

The Bahamas' national flower, the yellow elder, is no shrinking violet.

Its bold flowers can climb as high as 20 feet into the azure Caribbean sky. It's hard not to notice it, which was exactly the spirit that homeowners Carol and Dave Byler wanted to emulate in their self-confident little cottage on Abaco Island. "When they chose yellow [for the exterior], we just loved it," says interior designer Amanda Lindroth. "It's so happy and looks striking against the blue of the sky. It inspired us to bounce color all throughout the house."

The newly built home and its neighbors are all clustered around a gin-clear harbor in a community called Schooner Bay, which forgoes the casinos, the cruise ships, and the painstakingly maintained golf courses of nearby tourist destinations in favor of the simple luxuries of the bygone Bahamas. It's a throwback to the beauty of the rolling Atlantic right outside the front door—a fantasy for beach lovers and hobbyist fishermen alike. "We live in a small town outside Calgary, so we wanted someplace warm to retreat to where Dave could do his thing, and I could do mine," says Carol, referring to her love of birding, beachcombing, kayaking, and swimming, and to the many hours Dave spends stalking the wily local bonefish with his fly rod in hand.

For her part, Lindroth was determined to create a home suited to the couple's active lifestyle. With help from associate Rebecca de Ravenel, she infused the three-bedroom cottage with unassuming, barefoot appeal, keeping all of the spaces light and playing up the connection to the outdoors. "We knew the Bylers weren't going to want any formality, but at the same time they'd want it to be elegant."

So, the designer gave them just that, weaving in lots of vintage furnishings with classic silhouettes made fresh with several coats of paint for a timeless look. Framed photographs and paintings of the Bahamas from the 1940s and '50s provide a sense of place. "We were trying to create a polished version of what might have been in a house like this 30 years ago," Lindroth says, though she was careful to tie in modern elements such as colorful stripes to keep things from getting stuffy. "I love stripes," she says. "I try to use them in every room I do. For me, they represent a festival, and this is a festive place."

Her appreciation for color is also obvious in the Byler house—particularly in the kitchen shelves, painted blue to



The open shelving in the kitchen is painted a custom blue that makes the crisp, white dinnerware pop. Channel the style with Capri from Sherwin-Williams. The barstools are from Wood You.

The sofa is from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams. The pedimented farmhouse cabinet is from Coup d'Etat Antiques, and the matching chairs are from 50's 60's 70's Living.



THE THREE-BEDROOM COTTAGE IS INFUSED WITH UNASSUMING, BAREFOOT APPEAL THAT KEEPS ALL OF THE SPACES LIGHT



subtly complement the room's ocean view, and in the soft, sky-inspired shades used on pillows and rugs in nearly every space. The living room, too, is an easy indicator of Lindroth's preferences thanks to a classic, red striped fabric that upholds the sofa and the rich coral red cushions that top 1920s French rattan club chairs.

To balance out the vivid palette, Lindroth offset her textile choices with crisp, cool white walls and showcase antiques, such as the two dramatic pedimented driftwood shelves she discovered online. "I loved them the instant I saw them," she says. "All the upholstered surfaces here are so soft, but the cabinets add some edge. And with ceilings so high, they keep things cozy by bringing architectural interest to the room." Coziness is especially important here, because it's where the Bylers spend the most time with their two 20-something daughters when they visit—watching the occasional movie or hockey game, or pulling their blue-painted rattan peacock chairs around the Saarinen table to play cards and board games and tackle jigsaw puzzles.





THE MASTER  
BEDROOM  
IS FEMININE,  
WITH A SOFT,  
PATTERNED  
BEDSKIRT AND  
UPHOLSTERED  
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WHILE GUEST  
ROOMS ARE  
MORE SPARE



After game time, the bedrooms are the ideal place to relax. Lindroth was able to give each one its own personality while also keeping them simple and fuss-free. Her approach to the master bedroom is a touch more feminine, with a soft, patterned bedskirt and upholstered headboard, while guest rooms are more spare (though not without their own charm). In one, Lindroth paired iron campaign beds with crisp linens in barely-there blue before painting vintage wrought iron planters, filling them with conch shells, and hanging them overhead from lengths of boat twine. “They’re a hoot, aren’t they?” she says with a laugh.

For all of the cheery colors that follow them from room to room inside of their house, however, the Bylers have no problem singling out their favorite hue. One look at the house across the clear Bahamian sea makes it obvious: It’s the eye-catching Caribbean yellow they chose for the exterior of their happy home. “I just love it,” says Carol. “It’s so bright that you can see the house from a mile away!” 🌴

For more information, see Sources, page 104.



The landscaping is courtesy of Schooner Bay. Opposite, from top: The bed in the master is from Ballard Designs; the bedding is by Matouk. The guest room mirror is from Bamboo & Rattan.