dwell
AT HOME IN THE MODERN WORLD

May 2013

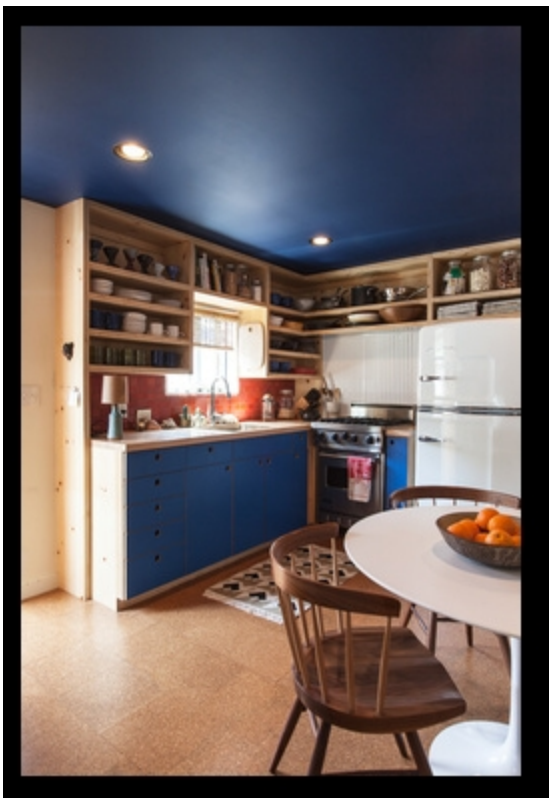
A Modern Beachside Trailer Home In Malibu

Erika Heet

Once a classic trailer-park scheme of mint green and white, the exterior of Commune Images owner Sofie Howard's 500-square-foot Malibu trailer was distinctively repainted. The gate is a patchwork of scrap wood pieces. Partly inspired by 1970s Vans slip-ons, Howard's boyfriend, artist Grant Shumate, painted accent lines on the side of the trailer. The porch houses a seating area with handmade Marrera Work Boxes from Commune, and a new outdoor shower. The entrance is beneath the wood-framed canopy.

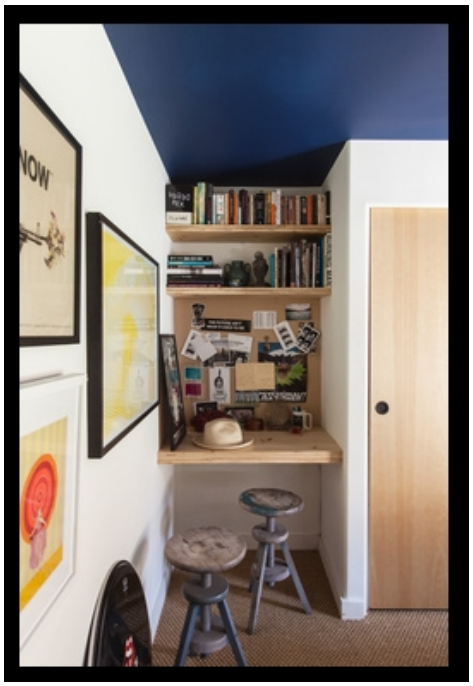
Howard and Shumate in the living room, where Commune designer Steven Johanknecht introduced custom built-in daybeds with storage beneath. The carpet-fragment pillows are from Commune, as is the table, designed by Joshua Tree–based sculptor Alma Allen. The poster is by Mike Mills.

The main room serves as a living/dining/kitchen area, where there is just enough room for a Saarinen table surrounded by Nakashima chairs. Johanknecht added the cork floor, and the custom stained-glass design on the Dutch door is by artist Steve Halderman.



The kitchen cabinetry echoes the new blue ceiling. The brick tile is from Heath Ceramics, as is the dinnerware. Behind the Viking stove is powder-coated corrugated metal ("Very trailer," says the designer). The refrigerator is from Big Chill. On the table is a bowl by Victoria Morris.

The blue ceiling continues into the bedroom, filled with art by Howard's friends. The yellow-and-white poster is by Mike Mills, and the signed Rolling Stones drumhead was a gift. "It feels like a New York apartment at the beach," says Shumate.



The bedroom allows for a tiny niche for a built-in wood desk. The target painting is by Alia Penner.

More fragment pillows adorn the bed, which is covered in a reversible bedspread by artist Jane Kifer. To the left of the window is a painting by Shumate