

ASK A DESIGNER

# Kara Mann

**You have questions,** and we have the experts on speed dial. Here, designer **Kara Mann** of Chicago and New York shares her wish list and what's on her radar.

**Ideal wallpaper for a bedroom?**

**KM:** I like bedrooms to be serene, light, and airy, so anything from de Gournay is usually great. I'm crazy about their lovely Lilac Hint naturally textured silk paper.

**How does geography affect your design approach?**

**KM:** For a lake house in Illinois, I'd use more subdued palettes with beautiful deep greens and true reds. For a house in the Caribbean, though, I'd kick up the intensity with vibrant fuchsia and Yves Klein deep blues. And then there are coastal colors I love in any region. *(Check out the box below.)*

**Advice for homeowners?**

**KM:** Edit, organize, and curate everything you own! Take time to get rid of what you don't want or need so that you can display the things you love with purpose.

**On your wish list?**

**KM:** I'm always searching antiques stores and flea markets for the perfect threadbare rug, no matter what the style—Khotans, kilims, anything that's faded.

**Tips for a quick makeover?**

**KM:** Switch out your accessories to change the feeling of a room instantly. For spring, go lighter: Use fewer pillows, and put away the heavy throws. Bring in brighter, more saturated colors.

**Favorite beach brew?**

**KM:** It's called a chelada, and I learned about it in Mexico. It's light beer on ice with fresh lime juice in a glass with a salted rim—kind of like a beer margarita!

**Fill your beach house with ...**

**KM:** Beautiful pieces made from natural materials that have a well-worn patina. Your home should be simple and comfortable, not complicated.  
—**Brielle M. Ferreira**



MY FAVORITE COASTAL PAINT COLORS



**BENJAMIN MOORE GRAY OWL (2137-60)**  
"I love this color for a living room, particularly with hits of pink incorporated in small decorative elements throughout the room."



**PORTER'S PAINTS WATERMELON MARGARITA**  
"When used in a powder room or pantry, this color is ideal for making a small space feel special."



**FARROW & BALL PAVILION BLUE (252)**  
"This light blue is great for bedrooms, especially if yours is overlooking the water!"

Have a question for a designer? Write to us at [letters@coastalliving.com](mailto:letters@coastalliving.com)