



# Suzanne Ascher & Jill Johnson

showcase classic, refined beach style at their California store.

**these** Manhattan Beach designers share Waterleaf (their retail design business), a close friendship, and an understated approach to coastal style. “Our interiors reflect a sophisticated beach feel without spelling it out in shells,” Jill says. *Turn to page 46.*

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### the look

It's clean and tailored, with punches of color. "It's not froufrou," says Jill, a former clothing designer. "Dressing a space is similar to pulling together an outfit. You want to coordinate but not match."

### style watch

"We manufacture our own line of furniture with tightly fitted slipcovers. They're comfortable, durable, and beach-appropriate, but in a sleeker package," Jill says. The designers complement their upholstery with metal and wood pieces. "A good mix keeps a space unpredictable and creates a look you'll never tire of," Suzanne says.

### instant impact

Suzanne and Jill believe that all lighting, from oversize chandeliers to small sconces, can have a dramatic effect. Waterleaf carries its own line of lamp shades and pendants. "We'll customize the pattern, shape, and size of our lighting to suit any space," Suzanne says.

### on the wall

The designers suggest arranging groups of like pieces together. "We select art that reflects beach living, such as maps, marine charts, and coral prints," Jill says.

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## signature style



### color cue

The designers' favorite room scheme consists of subtle blue-gray wall paint with crisp white trim and cabinetry. "It's soothing—just a hint of color," says Suzanne. Another option? Grass-cloth wall coverings. "They add a natural element and bring texture to any space," she says.

Paint, Dunn Edwards; 888/337-2468 or [dunnedwards.com](http://dunnedwards.com). Wall covering, Seabrook Wallcoverings; 800/238-9152 or [seabrookwallpaper.com](http://seabrookwallpaper.com).

### feet friendly

Suzanne and Jill combine sisal and sea-grass area rugs with cotton dhurries. "For added punch, we border sisal and sea grass with a fun color or material," Jill says. "Depending on the dressiness of the room, we choose anything from canvas to suede or leather."

Merida Meridian sisal and sea-grass rugs, Curran; 800/555-6653 or [curranfloor.com](http://curranfloor.com). Cotton dhurries, Dash & Albert Rug Company; 800/442-8157 or [dashandalbert.com](http://dashandalbert.com). 🌿

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*Waterleaf, Manhattan Beach, California; 310/545-3175 or [waterleafinteriors.com](http://waterleafinteriors.com)*

*Where's your favorite coastal shopping destination? Let us know. Write to Signature Style at Coastal Living, 2100 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209, or e-mail [signaturestyle@timeinc.com](mailto:signaturestyle@timeinc.com).*

