MARTHA O'HARA INTERIORS

For Martha O'Hara, principal of Martha O'Hara Interiors, many milestones tell the story of her 30-plus years of business success. Among these defining moments are working with top builders and architects; achieving a celebrity design presence on social media; being recognized in publications nationwide; and creating a team of award-winning designers that have become like family. The latter includes the addition of daughter Kate, who joined the firm in 2006 as creative director. "The best part of being a design entrepreneur is working with gracious homeowners and talented designers; and getting to do so with my daughter by my side," says Martha, who began her career as a business consultant with a love of home design, later launching Martha O'Hara Interiors in 1988. Today, the firm continues its work nationally and internationally, with two offices—one in Austin, and another in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A full-service studio, it provides everything from conceptual design and blueprints, to construction material selections and color palettes, to furniture and accessories. "Good design can transform any space regardless of size, and that's what ultimately has the power to change someone's day-to-day life," Kate says.







Martha O'Hara, Principal Kate O'Hara, Creative Director

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INSIDE THE **AWARD-WINNING** PROJECT:

Project name: Preppy Beach House **Project location:** Minneapolis, Minnesota Collaborators on this project: Darsi

Floersch, senior interior designer, and Tracie Irving, lead interior designer at Martha O'Hara Interiors; built by Great Neighborhood Homes; architecture by Swan Architecture; photography by Troy Thies

Project style: Classic casual

Unique elements of the design: Painted shiplap, detailed cement tile in the guest bathrooms, reclaimed-wood ceilings in the theater and full-service, lower-level bar.

Starting point for the project: Our clients wanted a preppy beach house with lots of natural light and white walls. Our approach to the design gave this classic, coastal home a layered interest through organic textures, bright accents and unique wallcoverings.

The project in three words: Preppy,

coastal, effortless







1. The hexagonal kitchen pendants play well with the coffered ceiling above. Subtle plaid counter stools offer classic styling, while a runner directs guests to the beautiful outdoor areas. 2. From the wood table and green chairs, to the floral walls and distinct lighting, this dining room features a delightful mix of organic and bright contrasts. 3. The lower level was designed with adults in mind too. Here, a sleek bar, sophisticated media center and a terrace lounge afford function for the kids and style for the grownups. 4. The spa extends the look and feel of this master bath, with his-and-hers vanities, a blown-glass chandelier, and an oval tub framed with draperies. 5. Bright, welcoming shiplap at the home's entrance effortlessly connects the upper level with the lower level, and guides the eye toward adjoining rooms.

All photography by Troy Thies