



EMBRACING THE CHANCE TO CREATE AN OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY SHACK, PEPPER HUTCHINSON AND MARK SAMBRAILO FIND A SWEET SPOT BETWEEN STYLE AND FUNCTIONALITY.

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The concept behind this vintage beach shack was simple: make it feel relaxed and comfortable. An uncomplicated brief, perhaps, but difficult to achieve in a very old house. Not so for Pepper Hutchinson and Mark Sambrailo. The couple has reimagined their 1960s Augusta holiday house into a relaxing family haven, Airbnb favourite, and escape from everyday life.

Nestled on the banks of the Blackwood River and immersed in nature, it reminds Pepper of her Tasmanian childhood. "It takes me back with the cooler climate, fishing, and the ocean meeting the river," she says. "We sit on our deck and look across at a long strip of bush through peppermint gums and see water. It's hypnotic."

Mark, a fourth-generation boat builder, largely renovated the tiny two-bedroom shack, removing the kitchen and lounge room wall for generous open-plan living. The old-fashioned bathroom was overhauled, the laundry mudroom reshuffled, and the once narrow deck replaced with a much larger version that wraps

around the sides of the house. A granny flat at the back is used as a third bedroom, work shed, and storage.

The result is a charming beach shack filled with comfy second-hand pieces and much-loved treasures. "The dining table, hanging chair, and vintage kitchenette are all Gumtree finds we restored," says Pepper. "Other treasures, like the kitchen pot and canisters, are from op-shops, and the kitchen and bathroom benchtops are old Oregon floorboards from The Guildford Hotel."

In the kitchen, new cabinetry is painted in Dulux Little Mermaid, a deep-sea green, and lanterns from House of Orange in Melbourne swing overhead. The lounge space centres around a potbelly stove and comprises second-hand chairs covered in various fabrics found at Warwick and Spotlight. "In winter, I gather all the chairs around the fire, and in summer, disperse them around the house," Pepper says.

A vast red floral rug that anchors a second living space was unearthed at a garage sale in Augusta. "It was \$40 and belonged to an artist from Tasmania," she says. "I had to have it!"

In the bedrooms, curtains filter in soft light and layers of bedlinens by Sheet Society and I Love Linen provide cosy comfort.



In the know

VISIT

Glenarty Road for a long lunch of house-made charcuterie, sides of seasonal produce, and crafted wines.
glenartyroad.com.au

Colour Patch Augusta for Negronis, Italian Mojitos, Albany Rock Oysters and roast scampi.
thecolourpatchaugusta.com

SHOP

Lion's Shed Op Shop for an afternoon of fossicking.
opshop.org/details/Lions-Shed-Leeuwin
Lion's Preloved Toys for preloved puzzles, games and children's toys.

BOOK IT

The Shipwright's Mistress, Vintage Augusta Shack on Airbnb
airbnb.com.au/rooms/46858189

As for the styling, Pepper says she had the perfect canvas to work with. Every corner is filled with bits and pieces from Mark's family's boatyards and treasures the couple has collected over time. "Augusta has great op shops for a population of only 6,000," says Pepper. "I fossick and always find treasures."

The Shipwright's Mistress is a world away from the distractions of modern life. There isn't a television; instead, puzzles, books and games are scattered to entertain. The couple's late mothers' recipe books, spanning Margaret Fulton to Nigella Lawson, are housed in the vintage kitchenette and are much loved by Pepper and her youngest son. "He likes to choose what we'll cook, and I love that my mum has thumbed through that very book and done the same," she says.

As for the name, the couple deliberated for six months on what to call their shack. "We wanted a name with a story," says Pepper. "We chose The Shipwright's Mistress because Mark is a shipwright, and this house continues to entice him down south. Luckily it doesn't bother me a bit!" ■



Vintage Soul