My Summer House Celebrates a Special Season

by Linzee McCray @seamswrite

There are fabrics for Halloween and fabrics for winter holidays and fabrics for the 4th of July. But how about fabrics celebrating summer? Anne Sutton felt it was time to design My Summer House, a tribute the time of year when children play outside, neighbors sip iced tea on their front porches, and farm stands overflow with strawberries and cherries.

"It's a special season and it's often overlooked," says Anne. "I hear about people having summer houses and thought 'I can have a summer house. Anyone can!" Hers is simply a pair of Adirondack chairs tucked into an alcove in her garden. Pale pink Cecile Brunner roses climb overhead, and from this spot, she can enjoy her beloved flowers and wave to neighbors strolling by. "It's the best place to sit in this wonderful time of year," she says.



Anne Sutton of Bunny Hill Designs



Mutual Inspiration

Anne designs her fabrics and quilt patterns at the same time, with ideas from one influencing the other. For My Summer House, she chose refreshing, seasonal colors, perfect for the lemonade stand, ice cream shop, and "sheshed" featured on her My Summer House quilt. Anne's deep love of animals (she has three dogs and three cats) is reflected in the appliquéd cats with birds and flowers perched on their tails, koi gliding on a pond, and a dog flying a floral balloon. A bicycle, ice cream cone, and lots of flowers continue the summery vibe and complement the fabric's vining florals, watercolor stripes, and house with a picket fence. "I'm always thinking about how the quilt and the fabric will go together when I'm designing," says Anne. "And smaller projects stitched in My Summer House—pillows, table runners, and tablecloths—will be perfect for seasonal decorating, too."

Anne and her dog, Chelsea

Anne started her pattern company, Bunny Hill Designs, nearly 24 years ago. At a quilt shop near her northern California home, she took classes and eventually taught them herself. She'd worked in hotel management and dreamed of a career in the quilting world but worried about failing. A close friend reminded her that she could always go back to what she was doing if it didn't succeed. "But you'll never know unless you try!" Anne remembers her saying. Anne still has a photo of her very first pattern sale, to a shop owner in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to remind her of those early days.

Exploring Whimsy and Elegance

Anne's connection to Moda came not long afterward, at Quilt Market in Houston. My Summer House is her 26th line and she's loved the collaboration. "Moda's enabled me do fabrics that are cute and fabrics that are sophisticated," she says. "They've let me use my creativity and grow. It's been a dream come true."





Anne and her granddaughter, Alyssa

When she's not designing, you can find Anne gardening or teaching her granddaughters to sew. Her eldest is a senior in college, who Anne taught to sew when she was young. "She made more than 100 masks for friends and family during the pandemic," says Anne proudly. "She sews up a storm." (She's also the hand model for all of Anne's Petite project photos.) Currently Anne is helping her younger granddaughters build their sewing skills. "We made skirts once and they liked them so much, we made three!" she laughs.

Sharing her beloved skills thoroughly delights Anne, as does expressing herself through fabric and quilts. She cherishes the friendships she's made and opportunities she's experienced thanks to her quilts and fabric. "This little business is my connection to everything!" says Anne.

For more with Anne, visit her website **bunnyhill.com** and follow her on social media **@bunnyhilldesigns**.



My Summer House by Bunny Hill Designs



Summer afternoon... the two most beautiful words in the English language. - Henry James







Ah, sweet summer! It's the sound of sprinklers, ice cream trucks, children playing, birds singing, and neighbors greeting neighbors.

As I look around my house, I realize summer has arrived. My house is more carefree and playful. It's filled with flowers from the garden, fruit from the farmer's market, and fresh air from the open windows. You'll find my flip-flops beside the back door with a garden tool or two next to them.

So join me for a casual picnic in the backyard. Grab a glass of lemonade, and let's relax a bit! We have permission to be lazy! Summer has arrived in shades of red, pink, grey, aqua, and cream! Welcome to **My Summer House**!

March 2024 Delivery

IG | @bunnyhilldesigns #mysummerhousefabric

FABRICS + SUPPLIES®







Patterns by Bunny Hill Designs

- A) PS3040 Hello Summer Pillow | 12" x 16"
- **B) BHD 2197** My Summer House | 73" x 82" 11-Month Block of the Month Program KIT3040
- C) BHD 2198 Summer Stars | 74" x 74" AB Friendly
- D) BHD 2199 Porch Party | 66" x 66" AB Friendly

My Summer House by Bunny Hill Designs



My Summer House by Bunny Hill Designs



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9900 128 STONE

9900 26 PALE PINK

9900 230 CHERRY