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# Create resort style in urban spaces



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The trouble-free luxury of a beach bungalow is easier to live with than the bikini-bright kitsch of a theme restaurant. Think sun-bleached shades and whitewashed wood, accented with small souvenirs of the tropics.

For the look of a weathered hideaway, start with a dramatically bright floral wallpaper. After hanging, use a large, flat bristle brush to apply a coat of beige interior paint to the entire surface. Before each section dries, use a soft cloth to wipe off excess paint. Smear in small circles to avoid stripes. The result: subtle floral walls with a sun-faded familiarity.

If you can't make the commitment to paper, try painting the living area in soft shades of mango or blue. For texture, stipple a second darker shade with a large sea sponge. Keep windows inviting with simple sheers — floor length in cream or white. Ideally, they will billow with the breeze like a summer cloud.

If you already have wood floors and ceiling fans, you're halfway there. Sisal mats with twill borders are an inexpensive floor fix. Introduce a dresser, bar cart, and other home accessories in bamboo, wicker, and rattan. Find great deals on island-style chairs and sofas at outdoor furniture stores' end-of-the-season sales.

Think of comfort when choosing fabrics. Khaki or beige combed cotton for the sofa or floor pillows evokes a well-loved beach-house porch decor. Layers of all-white bed linens have the look of a Jamaican resort. Use tourist T-shirts as front panels for bedroom throw pillows. Keep colors light and rooms open. Also invest in plenty of mirrors to keep the space feeling boundless.

Indulge in the spirit of travel with leather-bound trunks as end tables or storage. An old, shuttered door in distressed pastel makes a great coffee-table top. Though there are many fun South Pacific-inspired lamps, let most of your lighting come from a flame. Group a few glass and brass lanterns or iron

candlesticks, and fill with candles in delicious scents of mai tai and pineapple cilantro. Complete the ambience with potted orchids, small palms and soothing music.

If you're fortunate enough to have experienced a tropical getaway, frame enlarged vacation photos. Don't fret if you have to co-opt others' images, though. Seek art that you can relax into just as you would a picture window to the sea: endless waves, Caribbean sunset, pristine sands, blushing hibiscus. For wanderlust style, frame vintage cigar labels, and botanical etchings.

Use details to reflect personal style. Are you attracted more to cigars and Tiki bars or all things nautical?

Choose a secondary specific theme to support your look, lest you collect everything with a palm tree on it. For the wannabe sailor, try brass hurricanes

and hourglasses, leather-bound journals, canvas curtains and slipcovers, and model ships for the mantel. For the bartender in paradise, collect silver swizzle sticks, mojito glasses, crocodile barware, and oceans of rum. For the Polynesian princess, stock the bath with luxurious salts, soaps and beach towels. To play the early retiree, choose a quality poker set, humidifier and putting green. Stretch your budget with bottles of assorted shells or beach glass or travel labels from sunny climes. Though you'll want to avoid flamingo-festooned accessories, do introduce unique pieces just for fun. "See no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil" monkeys, a lifeguard chair, silly coconut crafts from tourist traps, even a mounted marlin — choose one or as two conversation starters.

Make your home as close as possible to the place you would choose to be if you were away. Then just sit back and relax with a couple of mint-muddled mojitos, a basket of conch fritters, and pretend you're in paradise.

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