

# A FEELING OF LIGHTNESS

For directors Adam Scougall and Benjamin Napier of Sydney-based interior designer firm *As You See It!* a summer-inspired environment should reflect a carefree feeling – much like the holiday atmosphere yearned for all-year round. The talented pair offers their advice for creating a home that feels soothing, fresh and summery.

## STYLE PHILOSOPHY

Like many, summer style can evoke the feeling of lightness and a not-so-serious approach when defining the decor in this style – soothing colour palettes and utilising fabrics, such as linens, which can provide the feeling of lightness and comfort.

## SUMMER TRENDS

We are already seeing the influence in our interiors of a recharge in nature, a subconscious escape from our digital lives. People are so caught up with phones, tablets and status updates throughout the day that by the time they get home they want an environment of serenity. We feel that we will continue to see the use of more rustic, chunky wood, knotted rope and organic wall hangings. It's all about nature and comfort.

## CREATING THE LOOK

For colour, this will depend on the feel a person is going for. Many would think that a summer colour palette would rely on soft blues and sand tones, but the flipside of that is you can have a feast of saturated colour and still fit the vibe. If



Adam Scougall and Benjamin Napier, As You See It!



“THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WANT TO FEEL RATHER THAN WHAT YOU ‘THINK’ A SUMMER-INSPIRED LOOK SHOULD BE. THE JOY OF RESORT LIVING IS ALWAYS ABOUT HAVING MINIMAL DECORATION AND DISTRACTION, SO PARING BACK ON THE CLUTTER WILL NATURALLY CLEAR AND RELAX THE MIND.”

going for a Moroccan, ethnic feel, you can use tomato reds and sunburnt yellows. Think of ripe summer fruits and vegetables ready for the picking, and take a more eclectic summer palette from that perspective.

When looking to incorporate decorations and accessories, the first thing that comes to mind is the importance of window treatments sympathetic to the environment. Simple curtains in linen or gauze that have a transparent, light quality work beautifully in a warm environment with an abundance of light. The panel blinds (pictured in the

bedroom interior) are light filtering, which was a better choice than darkening block-out fabric which would have closed the room in and felt claustrophobic.

## AS YOU SEE IT! DECORATING TIPS

Connect your internal colour palette with your external furnishings. Keeping both in close colour connection will help the outdoors meld with the internal spaces within the home.

Avoid the obvious panache associated with ‘summer decorating’, such as buoys or fishnets. It’s more about a feeling rather than an obvious in-your-face approach.

Think about how you want to feel rather than what you ‘think’ a summer-inspired look should be. Ideally, it’s about a feeling of being on holiday, so comfort and de-cluttering your space is key.

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