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THE GOOD LIFE

SHORE THING

DREAMING OF OCEAN BREEZES? DECORATE YOUR HOME WITH COASTAL ACCENTS AND NATURAL TOUCHES THAT WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO THE BEACH.

By Martin Amado



CALMING COLORS

Avoid taking a literal approach to beach-inspired décor: Forgo anything embellished with images of seashells, seagulls or palm trees. Instead, capture subtle reminders of the coast by using the colors of the sea, sky and sand. To give a room added contrast and depth, pair different shades of blue with complementary tones, like a grassy green or sunny yellow. You can instantly refresh a space by painting an accent wall turquoise or navy blue. These darker hues have a nautical feel and work beautifully with white trim and molding to create a modern aesthetic.

SEAHORSE BOOKEND, Target, \$10, target.com
PILLOW, Crate & Barrel, \$35, crateandbarrel.com



LIGHT AND AIRY

Neutral-colored furniture evokes a casual, serene vibe. If your sofa is swathed in dark fabric, give it a quick, inexpensive summer makeover with a white or khaki slipcover. Most slipcovers are made for average-sized furniture, so if that's what you have, there's no need to spend extra on custom-fit. You can also transform your toss pillows by buying zippered covers in striped or check patterns that mix and match with solid-colored pillows in whatever palette you choose. At the end of the season, simply remove the covers to reveal the original pieces.

BRIGHT BEDDING

In the bedroom, replace your bulky comforter with a lightweight coverlet or quilt and breathable cotton sheets that'll keep you cool during the hotter months. To really change things up, keep your decorative bedding (coverlet, shams and bedskirt) all white and buy bright sheets that'll enliven the room every time you make the bed. It's clean and simple with a pop of color.

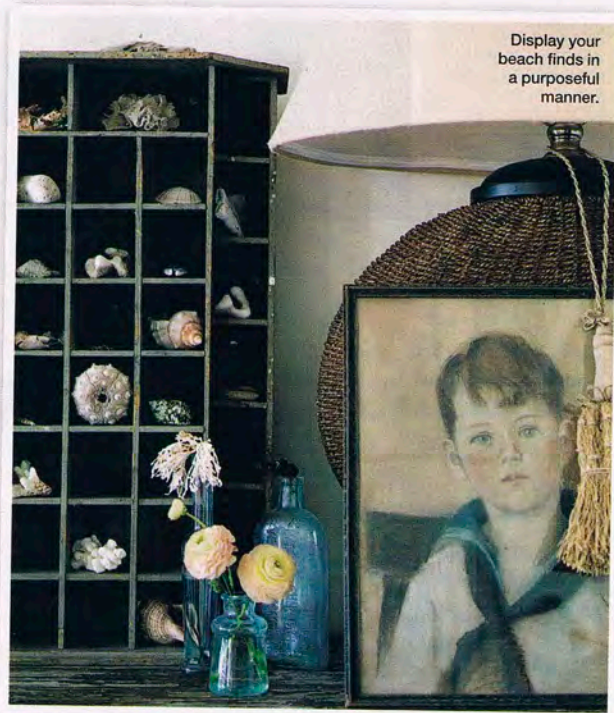


CHAISE LOUNGE, Ikea, \$169, ikea.com

CAPTURE
 SUBTLE REMINDERS
 OF THE COAST BY
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 AND SAND.

ORGANIC TEXTURES

Decorating with natural textures adds an organic quality to any space. Think about using a jute or sisal area rug in the center of the living room or at the foot of the bed. Swap out heavy drapery with sheer linen panels. You can even use found objects from the beach as long as you do it in a purposeful manner: Display a piece of driftwood on the mantel or fill glass apothecary jars with seashells and sand. Distressed elements and woven textures also add character to a room. Put a salvaged-wood coffee table in the living room or a wicker chair in a corner. Both can be found at flea markets and garage sales—the hunt is half the fun! Just remember, less is more, so don't go overboard.



Display your beach finds in a purposeful manner.

ARTSY TOUCH

Why buy mass-produced art when you can create your own? Be creative and take close-up and abstract photos of the ocean waves, the sand between your toes or anything that evokes that vacation feel, and display your pictures inside matted, whitewashed wood frames. You can create a montage by grouping related images together to highlight special memories.

MARTIN AMADO is a Cuban American interior designer, lifestyle expert, contributing writer and television expert on the subject of home décor.