

BEACHY KEEN

Create year-round vacay vibes with these simple design tricks



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1 WARM WELCOME

The way your home feels starts with the entry, the first interaction that you or your guests have with your home. “First impressions really do count, and you want to evoke a warm and inviting feeling as people enter the space,” says Melissa Bonney from multidisciplinary studio The Designory. She reimagined her most recent project, a coastal home in the heart of NSW’s Byron Bay, with this in mind. Here, guests traverse through lush tropical gardens and a fluted-glass door to be met by a timber stairwell clad in Como ‘New York Loft’ planks from Kustom Timber, which immediately creates a sense of anticipation for what’s to come.

2 SHEER DELIGHT

Nothing puts you at ease faster than a breezy, sunlit space, and this home has been designed to capitalise on its north-facing position and abundance of natural light. “With floor-to-ceiling windows in the entertaining spaces, sheer linen curtains from Luxaflex were the optimal choice,” says Melissa. “They diffuse light when it’s needed, add a soft, almost ethereal element to the spaces, and allow privacy when required.” For the private areas, including the bedrooms, she opted for Luxaflex Duette PowerView blackout blinds paired with Luminette PowerView curtains.

3 SUMMERY PALETTE

Driven by its proximity to the pristine Byron coastline, Lavana House (the Sanskrit word for 'sea salt') favours a light and bright palette worthy of a beach-house interior. Sandy neutrals, cool greys and oceanic pastels feature in the walls, floors, joinery and decor, "encouraging a sense of calmness and relaxation just as the ocean would on a serene summer's day," says Melissa. Crisp whites on the walls and outside spaces continue the summery scheme.



4 TEXTURAL BEAUTY

Unlike some hotel rooms, which can feel sterile and devoid of personality, a home should be comforting and familiar. That's where texture comes in, adding those lived-in layers while creating the desired ambience – in this case, that of an everlasting holiday. At Lavana House, Melissa used natural materials like concrete, natural stone, timber and rattan to reference the coastal location, repeating them in numerous ways for consistency. "I believe in creating a space that, when looked at as a whole, captivates you entirely," she says. "There's a beautiful repetition within Lavana that evokes a feeling of calm wherever you're standing."





5 SOFT TOUCHES

This home offers prime opportunities for relaxation time – plush beds that facilitate sleep-ins and afternoon siestas, comfy reading nooks framed by a view, dedicated play areas for the kids, and entertaining spaces that bring everyone together. You can achieve this laid-back lifestyle at home by making each bedroom a special place of retreat. Take cues from Lavana by utilising soft linens in beachy tones and scenic artworks for adult spaces, or create a fun bunk room for the kids, complete with vibrant wallpaper and a play space above.



6 EVERYDAY LUXURY

Basic tasks like taking a shower or doing a load of laundry can feel extra special with the right luxe touches, as Melissa and her team have so cleverly demonstrated at Lavana. The bathroom is a resort-like haven with an egg-shaped tub and double shower, while the laundry is a pleasure to spend time in, thanks to its soothing palette, hardworking storage and tactile surfaces. Statement lighting and luxe fixtures add to the decadence. “Every aspect and corner was carefully thought of and designed, to make this a home that is easily loved in all seasons and for all purposes,” Melissa explains.






GREAT FINDS



7 BACKYARD OASIS

Melissa likes to include a sense of luxury and fun in her backyard schemes – somewhere to enjoy outdoor meals, a few designated seating areas, lush plantings in keeping with the local area and, in this case, a plunge pool in the garden design by Living 4 Landscapes. “Lavana is only footsteps to the beach, so it was only natural to include a Brooklyn Copper Co outdoor shower to rinse the sand from your feet,” she says. “A custom swing and outdoor beanbags bring a sense of whimsy and almost child-like relaxation.”  See more at the-designory.com.au or [@thedesignory](https://www.instagram.com/thedesignory)

FROM TOP Pott ‘SpongeUp’ pottery **pendant light**, \$499 for small, Klaylife. Polysatin plantation **shutters**, from \$1017 per sq m, Luxaflex. *Eucalyptus* limited-edition photographic print **artwork** (unframed), \$990 for large, Kara Rosenlund. Cancun **laundry baskets**, from \$199 for small, Uniqlwa Collections. Desert Dunes ‘Luxury Mirt’ **rug** (90cm x 150cm), \$750, Benisouk. Decorated **MDF** in Natural Spinifex, from \$115.72 per sq m, Laminex. Como ‘New York Loft’ **timber flooring**, POA, Kustom Timber. Flute ceramic **bowl** in Ivory, \$275, The Foundry. Rita ‘Horn’ rattan-weave **armchair**, \$899, Uniqlwa Collections. Classic travertine **crazy pavers**, from \$140 per sq m, Graystone Tile & Design Studio.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: KATE HASSETT