



Designer FYI

By Kris Linder

Vacation year-round ...at home



No one wants to arrive at a vacation retreat that looks exactly like the home they just left.

Some people are fortunate enough to own a second home or “vacation house.” Most of these getaways reflect the hobbies and enthusiasms of their owners: Golfers have homes on the green, sailors prefer the ocean, skiers enjoy mountain chalets and fishermen love lake or river views.

Whatever the focus, designers take into account the local environment and lifestyle when planning a successful vacation home. In my opinion, a second home should always reflect the reason for having one — no one wants to arrive at a vacation home that looks exactly like the one they just left. Using a designer who specializes in “theme” designs can be an asset when considering the interior design of your retreat.

But for those who do not have a second home to get away to, don't despair — you can take a “home vacation” instead. Interiors can reflect your leisure interests and can (with the help of an expert) be designed to give you the feeling of a retreat. Sometimes just one room with a “theme” design can do the job, or the whole house can have the essence of a vacation getaway.

Try starting with colors and textures that remind you of your favorite vacation spot. Cut out pictures from travel magazines and find photos from your vacations that speak to you. But remember that creating a theme that doesn't come off as “hokey” takes vision and planning, and the integration of this new theme to the flow of your home is essential.

In the hustle and bustle of life today, wouldn't it be great to kick back in your own “beach house,” “fishing lodge” or “European villa”? Today, designers have access to furniture and fabrics that can make these design concepts a reality.

So “dream your theme” and vacation year round, at home! ↑

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