



REAL LIVING - Christmas Issue 2010



Dear **real living**,

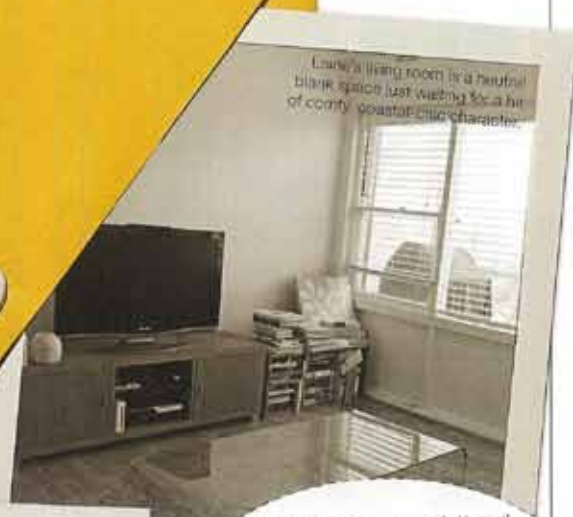
My partner and I live in a simple beachside apartment and we could really use your decorating expertise to add some warmth and colour to the place. When we moved in the walls were a lime-yellow colour, which we immediately covered with a neutral off-white paint. The colour makeover gave our home an instant lift and the illusion of much more space – added to the fact that the rooms have high ceilings and large windows.

We've chosen neutral-coloured furniture and rug to suit our beechwood flooring, with a splash of colour in our gorgeous grandpa-style red single chair.

The look we'd like to achieve is simple, classic and uncluttered. We'd also like to update our TV cabinet, possibly with a low-line white unit to provide more storage space for all of our books.

At the moment the living area is a little boring and the walls bare. We have collected a couple of pieces of art from a recent holiday but we can't quite make it all work. Please help!

Laine Lister, Cronulla, NSW



For a classic and uncluttered beachy-style interior think warm and welcoming: rustic, organic textures, natural linens, and chunky timbers.

Jacinta's advice:
remove the glass coffee table



YOUR DECORATING DILEMMAS *solved!*

Need help? Top interior designer **Jacinta Preston** is here to answer your dilemmas. Write in!

Keep it cool. COMFY & COASTAL

Talk to most designers, and we'll almost all agree that the most gorgeous beach house ever is the one featured in the 2003 movie *Something's Gotta Give*, with Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson. By definition, a beach house or beachside apartment should be a **simple, welcoming space** to relax with family and friends. **Comfort** is the priority.

That said, the **glass coffee table** in your living area does not fit this ideal of →





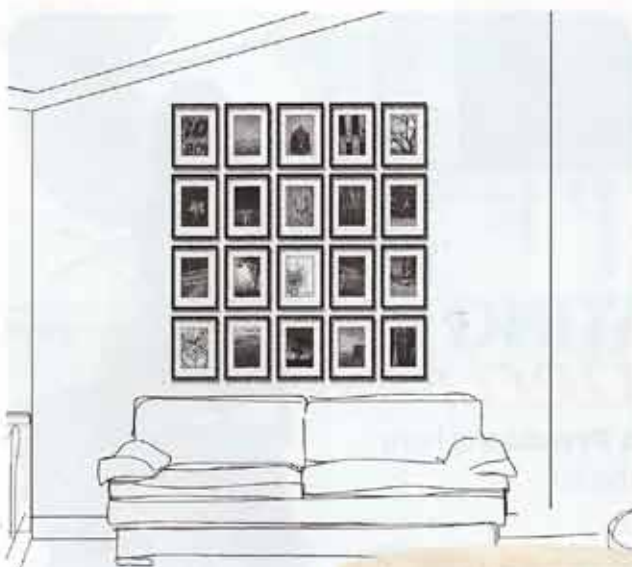
Artwork idea 1: rustic doors

Aged, distressed timber doors or gates can make a beautiful, beachy art installation behind the sofa. It'll create an interesting talking point, too.



...crackle it!
Crackle Medium
\$51.40 1L, Porter's Paints. Apply this clear gel to an already painted surface, then later apply an acrylic paint on top in your chosen colour - the gel will create a crackled, aged effect.

For distressed-look doors...
Cube internal doors, from \$473 each (2.04m x 0.9m x 35cm), Corinthian Doors.



Artwork idea 2: picture wall

Hang pictures in a neat grid arrangement with the same-sized frames (as shown), or be more eclectic with a random display and a mix 'n' match approach.

Gallery wall

Selection of framed images from the Vintage Collection & Australian Landscape series by Michael Collins, from \$350 each for 30cm x 30cm, VisualResource.com.au. All images can be custom-sized and finished to requirements.



Chunky & organic
Oregon Mega Drum coffee table (80cm x 40cm), \$3250, Mark Tuckey.

Sleek & streamlined
Catalina **entertainment unit**
(2m x 56cm x 54cm),
\$1299, Oz Design Furniture.
For stockists, see page 160.



Natural texture
Nest Weave hemp **rug** in
Natural (1.4m x 2m), \$445,
Armadillo&Co.



a comfortable, relaxed space. It needs to find another room to live in. Your coffee table should be robust enough to stick your feet up and enjoy that beautiful sea view.

Opposites attract, and to get the mix just right you need to add opposing textures and warmth to the lovely chalky white walls. Think **chunky, organic timber** pieces, **natural linens**, and even **rattan baskets** will work their magic. Artworks could be a simple **photo wall** (shown left), which is easy to do with affordable Ikea frames, or frames custom-made to your measurements. **Rustic timber doors** or **antique gates** would make a great **textural artwork** (shown far left, at top) – like creating the impression of an extra room, similar to the effect of a trompe l'oeil. **Timber sculptural artworks** will work too, but they are a bit tricky to get just right.

The big decision with this space is working out exactly how much **storage** is required – a long low-line **entertainment unit** (see above) may provide adequate storage, and it will leave the big wall behind the sofa free for large artworks. The key is to keep storage **simple, tall and neat**. Make it part of the structure of the house, rather than a feature in its own right. Your books and possessions then become the "story". And, remember to play with the styling of the **smaller objects** like books – both decorative and functional items can share this space, just keep moving things around until they find the right spot. Think of your possessions as little **still-lives** that can **tell a story** of the people who live in the house. Good luck! ☺

write in to win!



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iscd graduate / Christa Yifan

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