



Wallace and Nick.

Russian czars did it. So did Ottoman viziers. Even the Dalai Lama. Whether out of fashion or necessity, it was customary for these men and their families to migrate from winter to summer palaces. Today, on perhaps a more modest scale, many of us mark the turn of the seasons by changing residences. Live in only one home? It's still possible, and desirable, to consider exciting changes to reflect the shift from winter to summer. You typically change your wardrobe and other accessories with the seasons, so why not your living space?

There's an increasing trend for the home-design market to offer seasonal products. Incorporating new accessories, pillows, linens, towels, art or dishes is the simple way to make style changes. Some of our clients actually request rooms in their homes that capture the ambience and mood of different times of the year.

This is a concept we have also always embraced.

# A summer place

By Wallace Shaw and Nick Pezzo

In our own homes, we've created winter and summer bedrooms. The switch from one room to the next typically happens around daylight saving time for summer, marking a new beginning. There's more of a connection to the seasonal changes and the pleasure in noticing the fresh smells, sounds and colours of spring.

As Shakespeare noted, "Summer's lease hath all too short a date." Make the most of this brief time by incorporating some of these ideas into your rooms. Our summery looks are inspired by eclectic influences from the Caribbean, the English garden, the Mediterranean and the Antebellum South.

## For the summer...

Whether you're creating a summer retreat, simply redecorating your bedroom for the season, or adding a touch of romance to your dining experience, here are some fresh design ideas.

## Colour story

Brighter, lighter colours create a fresh and cheerful mood. The most popular shades are canary yellow, coral and lilac-tinted blue. To frame these crisp, warm-weather hues, use creamy white accents on trim work, doors and ceilings. Drapes should also be in soft pastels or crisp colours. Classic white and yellow awning stripes work well to evoke a mood of relaxed elegance. Keep the design simple—you do not need valances, jabots or puddles on the floor. The drapes should be light enough to gently billow in the summer breeze.

## Let there be light

Summer is all about capturing and reflecting light. Venetian mirrors, with their bevelled edges and delicate etchings, bring sparkle and elegance.

These 18th-century-style pieces are timeless and work well with any design. French King Louis XIV, with his stunning Hall of Mirrors at

Versailles, understood the mirror's potential to bring opulence and light into a room. Besides hanging mirrors, we also like to incorporate Venetian-style or other types of mirrored furniture into our designs. If possible, place pieces across from windows so that they reflect the colourful outside landscape. We've also used silver vanity accessories and mirrored picture frames to add a cool twinkle.

## Bedtime stories

A beautiful, hand-painted Venetian-style headboard adds a touch of drama. For Caribbean chic, look for cane and mahogany bed frames or headboards.

It's time to refresh and rejuvenate your home for a warm-weather sparkle!

These work particularly well if used with rattan or mahogany chairs. Linens should be taupe or creamy white to complement the room's other bright hues. Satin sheets are cool against the skin, and a silk, vintage chenille or damask duvet covers will add understated sophistication. Enjoy the lavender scents of Provence or roses from Grasse by misting your sheets with scented linen water. Replace winter blankets with ivory cashmere throws.

## Bedside companions

French demilune commodes with light-coloured marble tops make practical yet elegant bedside tables. The curvilinear form and symmetrical design are fanciful yet reminiscent of a French country summer home. For lighting, we recommend vintage

ceramic or crystal lamps. Whether your summer art is hanging on the walls or is placed on your bedside commodes, we suggest nautical, country-meadow or Venetian-themed scenes.

## Floor show

Rugs that have floral or tropical motifs will bring a colourful spray of summer bouquets or jungle foliage to your floor. Hand-hooked wool rugs with petit-point detailing in shades of soft pink, sage green and cornflower blue are refined yet charming. The classic French blue-and-white wool toile rug brings a relaxed sensibility to the space and is the perfect accent to gleaming wood floors.

## Full bloom

Save the dried hydrangeas for winter. Fill your ceramic cachepots with fresh flowers such as daisies, lilies, peonies and, of course, roses—the classic flower in any English cottage garden. Collectible porcelain vases, such as Meissen, Wedgwood, Limoges and Ginori, will bring personality and flair to your floral designs.

## Table manners

While some of you may have large enough residences to create separate summer and winter bedrooms, it is unlikely there are two kitchens in your home! By making some of these subtle changes, you'll create a summer mood for dining.

We have always collected—and recommended—dishes for different occasions and times of the year. For casual summer china, we suggest the classic Spode Blue Room Collection. If you prefer whimsical, go for the Easy and Country collections from Villeroy & Boch. Complete your table setting with glass stemware in cool colours that complement the dishes, as well as stainless flatware with faux-bamboo or

blue-and-white porcelain handles.

For more formal summer occasions, Spode, especially the Curtis series of 22 botanicals in the Chelsea style, the Herend American Wildflowers and the Blue Garden patterns create an unforgettable table setting. Coloured stemware from Murano or Mottahedeh and matched hotel silver flatware keeps the mood refined yet relaxed.

For your libations, choose casual or formal silver wine coolers and ice buckets. For tea and coffee, nothing looks more elegant than a silver service glimmering in the summer sunlight against crisp white linen.



## Slip into something comfortable

If your table and chairs are dark fabrics or leather, lighten the look with creamy tablecloths and slipcovers. Linens with summer motifs of shells or flowers will brighten the room. Do you prefer a less ornate design? Select a solid colour and enliven the table with French toile linen napkins. Bring some wicker or rattan chairs into the kitchen and accent them with pillows covered in pale satin and chintz fabric.

## Lights, action, candlelight...

Long twilights and relaxed moods are

enhanced with soft lighting. The pure romance of a candlelit room can never be matched. Use white, cream or soft pastel candles of varying sizes and shapes. To create visual impact, group candlesticks of different heights and arrange fresh flowers or shells around their base. For a dramatic centrepiece, place floating candles in a crystal vase filled with water. For a touch of colour, add brightly coloured petals, blossoms or goldfish to the water.

## Foreign accents

Reflect your unique style by incorporating summer-inspired design accents into your rooms. Paintings of boats, seascapes, flowers or botanical prints will evoke a summery mood. Fill glass or crystal vases with seashells and hand-painted floral serving bowls with seasonal fruits and vegetables. Display fresh floral arrangements in casual and whimsical containers, such as ceramic birdbaths, Victorian birdcages or graceful ironstone pitchers. If the bouquets include flowers such as cosmos, zinnias or sweet peas from your own garden, it will create a lovely connection between your indoor and outdoor environments.

## Easy does it

When thinking about your summer-style design plans, be sure that your ideas are achievable, and avoid overly complicated seasonal decorating or design projects. The work involved should not be so taxing—or costly—that it diminishes the pleasure that you derive from it.

As 16th century poet Jean de Boufflers noted, "Pleasure is the flower that passes; Remembrance, the lasting perfume." Make yours a summer to remember. ■

Wally Shaw ARIDO, IDC, and Nick Pezzo are the principals of Shaw-Pezzo, an international resource of exquisitely crafted home furnishings, artwork, lighting and accessories. Shaw and Pezzo also offer world-class interior design services.

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