

# BEACHSIDE MODERN



Thames  
&Hudson

LAUREN LI



# COLOUR

The controlled colour palette here is subtle and gentle on the eye, but it's also complex; the white, black, cream and timber tones are anything but basic. Finding the perfect white paint can prove a challenge with so many shades of white to choose from. Think of cool grey whites, warm creamy whites, smoky dull whites or oatmeal beige whites – there is so much variation and nuance. While some may not see any colour in this neutral backdrop, it's everywhere.

The way that light falls in the space has its own effect on colour. Bright clean whites can feel too harsh and create glare in rooms that are flooded with sunlight, so a slightly dirty, creamy white is perfect here.

You may find that a room that doesn't get much natural light – perhaps due to its orientation or smaller windows – feels drab and flat when painted white. This is the perfect opportunity to create a moody space. Painting a room dark grey or navy is a break from white airy spaces and creates an enveloping feeling.

Don't forget that a natural colour palette draws the eye outward. Stunning external views of a garden beyond, or perhaps even an ocean, provide the added palette of nature's colours.

## ELEVATED PLAYLIST

'Come Away with Me' by Norah Jones

'Coffee' by Sylvan Esso

'Django' by The Modern Jazz Quartet

'Lisa Sawyer' by Leon Bridges

'The Girl from Ipanema' by Astrud Gilberto



Interior Designer  
KATE BEADLE  
INTERIOR DESIGN

A perfect pairing. Colour is the easiest language in which two pieces can speak to each other. However, the similar shapes of both artwork and chair mean that these pieces truly vibe together.

Photographer NIKOLE RAMSAY





Interior Designer  
KATE BEADLE  
INTERIOR DESIGN

A clean white hallway with a cleverly positioned strip skylight makes for an airy, fresh entry at this coastal home in Portsea, on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

**TIP** Rather than the default square skylights in the middle of a hallway, consider a long strip against the wall as it allows for a surface for the light to fall on, which adds a touch of drama.

Photographer NIKOLE RAMSAY



Interior Designer  
KATE BEADLE  
INTERIOR DESIGN

A group of rowing oars reference the beach location of this home while taking on a sculptural feel.

**TIP** Be brave and take risks with what is considered 'art' for the home. Is there something that you collect? Try grouping and boldly displaying your collectibles.

Photographer NIKOLE RAMSAY



Photographer NIKOLE RAMSAY



Interior Designer  
KATE BEADLE  
INTERIOR DESIGN

A bedroom should offer a sense of calm and security. Painting the walls in a moody grey feels enveloping and cosy.

**TIP** Some bedside tables are just too small. Look at a chest of drawers instead, so that you have space for a lamp and a stylish vignette as well.

Photographer NIKOLE RAMSAY



Interior Designer  
KATE BEADLE  
INTERIOR DESIGN

Warm white walls awash with natural light from strip skylights provide drama here. But the hand sculpture in the bathroom beyond adds an element of humour that shows the people living here love to have fun.



# II.

Photographer NIKOLE RAMSAY



Interior Designer  
KATE BEADLE INTERIOR DESIGN

## DEFINING YOUR BEACHSIDE STYLE

Beachside style is alluring, not just for its relaxed looks but also for the emotions it represents. There's a sense of freedom and escape that the beach endows us with, a simplicity and lightness to living and, for many, memories of childhood holidays or youthful liberation. Creating the 'beachside modern' style at home is a way to evoke those feelings in our everyday surrounds.

We've explored beach interiors across different regions and, by now, you may have decided which style complements your home and lifestyle. This may be driven by your location – whether in a cool climate, on a classic coastline, near inland waterways or in tropical hinterland. Perhaps you don't live near the coast but simply want to create a relaxed feel that echoes beach modern. If you're undecided, this section can help you interrogate the look that you want for your home.

First, take a small quiz to help you focus on which beach style reflects the *look* you love. It's a prompt to get you thinking about your home and the way you live, so that you can identify the style that speaks to you and your life.

Next, consider the *feel* and mood of your ideal space; it's as important as how it looks. A harmonious room that invites you to stay is the ultimate styling achievement.

Once you've identified how the space should look and feel, you're ready to begin the design process. Before you do, you'll need a *plan* to guide you as you implement your beachside look. Creating a design plan takes a little time but it ensures the results are considered and rewarding. With a plan in hand, styling decisions and selections are easier and, soon enough, you'll be a pro at shopping and editing – an essential skill to pull off a cohesive look.

As a designer, I'm continually amazed by the power of room transformations from blank canvas to beautiful, layered space. It's immensely satisfying when a room begins to come together, even more so when the result reflects your own creativity and self-expression. With a vision and a plan, you can achieve the beach house of your dreams.