

A TASTE OF SUMMER

Vibrant interiors are set to sizzle
this summer with beautiful
colours and textures

WORDS CARROL BAKER



Shades of blue with pops of
colour are perfect for summer.
Photography by Nicole Reed
Photography. studiomcgilp.com.au



ABOVE
A vibrant piece of art injects a fabulous summer vibe. Photography by Nicole Reed
Photography. studiomcgilp.com.au

BELOW
Comfortable organic bamboo sheets are ideal for summer.
thebambooshop.com.au



Summer is fresh and effervescent. It's filled with colour, life and energy. It tantalises the senses and soothes the soul.

Throw open your doors and windows and let fresh air flow through your living spaces. Invite nature to the party by bringing in potted blooms from the garden. Swap out heavier curtain fabrics for lighter ones. If there are shadows and areas that need a little more illumination or a lighter mood, swap out globes. Cooler light contains more blue, which makes it crisper and brighter. Source some floor and table lamps to add light to dark corners. To brighten a space, add a large mirror opposite a source of natural light.

Blissful bedrooms

A comfortable bedroom space is important to ensure restful slumber. We've all had nights where we've tossed and turned, unable to sleep, on scorching summer evenings. Set the scene for quality snooze time. Transitioning to the warmer months means less layers of bedding and lighter options. Frances Cosway from White Pebble Interiors suggests adding a coverlet or bedspread to replace your doona. "You can also just have a top and bottom sheet and add a cotton weave blanket if the night becomes cool," she says.

Frances also suggests pulling back the flat sheet on top so the doona or coverlet doesn't go all the way to the end of the pillows. "Already it feels cooler and lighter in the space," she says.

Be playful and experiment to create the look you want. Try two different-coloured sheets, or a floral sheet on top and a plain sheet on the bottom, or vice versa. "Then change the colourway of your cushions with lighter, brighter tones or florals," adds Frances. Add a fresh sprig of your favourite blooms, to a vase on your bedside table to complete the look.

Screen savers

We've all been at the mercy of those pesky insect critters that crash the party as soon as dinner is served. Mosquitoes are synonymous with living in Australia during summer, but take heart. New-look fly screens are changing the way we live. Brooke Aitken from Brooke Aitken Architects & Interiors says there are now insect screens that can slide all the way back so you only use them when needed. They're not a permanent fixture across a door or window so won't detract from



ABOVE
Screened spaces are perfect when summer insects try to crash the party.
brookeaitkendesign.com.au

RIGHT
Watty! Tombola, poised in purple and fromage. fentonandfenton.com.au

the view. "When the mozzies get really bad, you just slide them across. They're minimalist and easy to use," she explains. "It's a gamechanger for how you live at home in summer."

Colours that shimmer

Summer colours are vivacious. Consider bold florals and geometrics, or you can take it down a notch with pastel hues like aqua, coral and peach, opal or soft teal. Add colour with fresh summer-inspired artwork, trinkets and curios that tell a story.

Rebecca Cardamone from Ace Property Agency says she loves to play with colour through the use of tiles. "During summer I really get inspired by pool houses, European bathrooms and boutique hotels from around the world and find that a bold tile choice can absolutely transform a space," she shares. If your outdoor zones need a fresh new look, Rebecca suggests adding colour and a splash of personality through tiles. "Imagine creating a Mediterranean atmosphere with a bright-blue Art Deco tile matched with some timber furniture," she says. "Or a sage green tile could calm your space and give you a country summer vibe."





Hit refresh

Summer is light, bright and inviting. In the cooler months, it's all about cosy comfort, fires to sit by and warm your toes, heavier fabrics to snuggle into, and heady scents to add layers of comfort.

When asked to share a couple of interior design “secrets” about decorating for summer, Rebecca has the following advice. “Before you start decorating for summer, start decluttering,” she advises. “Do a big clean out of throws you don’t need for the upcoming season, donate or recycle any run-down vases or decor you’ve accumulated and start fresh. Utilise linens over wool and think woven baskets rather than velvet cushion covers. These small material and texture changes make a huge difference to setting the scene for a summer vibe.”

Summer sizzle

Inject life and cool comfort into your summer spaces. Alisha McGilp from Studio McGilp says elevating interiors in the summer months is all about considered use of colour and pattern. “Select three or four major colours and repeat them throughout the home using varying patterns and textures to maintain a sense of consistency,” she advises.

Sometimes it’s the little things that can also have the biggest impact — and Alisha says a simple cushion can do just that. “Some dynamic conversational cushions will uplift a living space without reimagining the entire interior,” she points out. “Similarly, soft bathroom towels in cool blue/green hues are beautiful after a refreshing shower and will cool down the built environment.”

There is so much that you can do in the kitchen, too, to add a splash of summer. Alisha suggests block-printed linen napery, colourful glasses with fresh lime and lemon, and a set of energetic and colourful plates. “These can transform a meal among friends and family,” she enthuses.

A treat for your feet

Summer flooring is cool underfoot; it feels cosy and light. To start, freshen up your summer floors with a deep clean. Summer flooring looks to nature for its inspiration — natural fibres like jute, sisal and cotton dominate. Add a splash of colour with a bold print or geometric rug.

For a fresh take on summer flooring, Frances suggests even stripping away rugs to create a pared-back look. “Take rugs away completely and expose timbers or concrete; it’s cooler underfoot and it offers a completely different aesthetic,” she says.

ABOVE

Create understated luxury and comfort with a striking rug. templefinerugs.com.au

OPPOSITE ABOVE

Cool comfort for summer with a Roam Crocodile rug underfoot. tribehome.com.au

OPPOSITE BELOW

Yellow accents serve up summer in style. Photography by Nicole Reed Photography. studiomcgilp.com.au



ABOVE

Take it outside with a comfortable Kea armchair. satara.com.au

ABOVE RIGHT

With a beautiful lamp to light the way, there's no need to take the party indoors when night falls. Featured is the Luna lamp by Tribu. coshliving.com.au



Outdoor summer playground

Enjoying the outdoors at home in the warmer months is all about creating cosy spaces that reflect the true essence of summer living — spaces where you can cook up outdoors on a balmy evening, spaces to entertain friends and family in style, spaces to relax poolside, and spaces you'll want to come home to and relax in after a busy week.

Creating a beautiful summer outdoor zone at home begins with choosing the right furniture. Brooke says your choice of outdoor furniture is crucial. "We live in a temperate environment. It's important to buy well, buy once, and buy something that will last in our environment," she advises.

Source superior furniture crafted with materials that are designed for the outdoors. If you don't want to buy new, refresh what you already have. Clean your outdoor furniture, redo upholstery if needed, and revitalise the space with some summer cushions. Source pastel pinks and corals, blues and green hues that reflect the colours of the ocean. "Being able to sit outside at night on a comfortable chair with a glass of wine is something that not a lot of the world gets to enjoy — this is what outdoor living here is all about," says Brooke.

Looking for a quick way to inject that summer feeling into your outdoors? "Buy a beautiful summer umbrella. Some look amazing with tassels, prints and stripes — it's a way to instantly revamp a space," notes Brooke.



ABOVE

Relaxation never looked so good. Monsieur Tricot, Tribu. coshliving.com.au

Get fresh for summer

What does summer mean to you? We asked our experts for their take.

Francis Cosway from White Pebble Interiors: “Light and breezy fabrics. Bring in potted blooms from the garden like daffodils, jonquils, gerberas and lilies to add fragrance and colour. Add lighter-style fabrics like linen. Summer is all about sheer curtains billowing in the breeze.”

Brooke Aitkin from Brooke Aitkin Architects and interiors: “Throwing open the doors and letting the light in. Creating a beautiful table with a summer vibe. Take native Australian foliage from the garden and place on the table, and add moss green napkins. Acquire some rechargeable lanterns you can move around the house or take them outside for a lovely summer ambience.”

Rebecca Cardamone from Ace Property Agency: “My mind

instantly wants to create a place to cool down outdoors with a relaxed vibe and incorporate a fun, practical place to entertain. Plant deciduous trees near windows or around outdoor furniture. You can shade areas where strong sun hits your living space. In the cooler seasons, the leaves will fall off the deciduous trees and allow the warmth back in the home.”

Alisha McGilp from Studio McGilp: “Our interiors can lean into the joy and vibrancy that summer brings. Be surrounded with a light and bright environment, supported by cool tones to provide relief. Clear blue and green hues provide restful harmony when juxtaposed with vibrant yellow, pink and orange. High chroma, bright and uplifting colours sit comfortably against soft textures to reflect the happiness of hot summer days.” ♡