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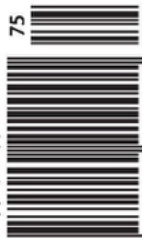
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Strong Hold

A home robust in form and commanding in presence

ENDLESS SUMMER



Summer is a season that celebrates life — it's joyous, upbeat and filled with the promise of good things to come

WORDS CARROL BAKER

THIS PAGE

A striking console in white teamed with a sprig of flowers and a pop of colour with art.

domo.com.au

OPPOSITE

Sheer curtains capture the breeze, creating lightness and a serene backdrop.

vaultinteriors.com.au





“Wattyl Badaboom is just such a colour! It is upbeat, highly optimistic and full of sheer joy.”

ABOVE

Summer is the season to be adventurous, a curated look that dares to be bold. Wattyl Badaboom paint. Photography by Dave Kulesza. fentonandfenton.com.au; wattyl.com.au

OPPOSITE

Introduce some vibrant tones and accent pieces you love after giving your spaces a fresh lick of paint. Featured is Wattyl Blueberry Yum Yum, Purple Plum and Icing White paint. Photography by Dave Kulesza. fentonandfenton.com.au; wattyl.com.au

Long lazy days, gatherings of friends and family, having fun with the kids in the pool, that’s what magical summer days are made of. With the right furniture, finishes, lighting and decor, you can enjoy that summer vibe all year round.

Celebrate nature’s beauty

Summer is all about endless sunshine. It’s enjoying the outdoors and creating lasting memories. Justine Wilson, founder of Vault Interiors Property Styling, says to capture that feeling, incorporate colours and textures that are organic. “Consider sisal rugs that evoke feelings of beach shacks or sand, linen fabrics and soft cottons. Selections that are soft to touch and allow airflow are great for curtains or pillow covers,” she says.

There are many ways to breathe new life into your interiors with some uplifting summer decor. Trish Khoury, founding director of Grace Interior Designs, says terracotta or ceramic decor such as vases, trivets or fruit bowls can work well. “Think about ways to bring the outdoors in with plants in jute baskets, and include the use of summer colours such as yellow, which is a positive and happy colour,” she suggests.

A splash of summer

Colour your home happy with shades that uplift. Trish says some colours are more impactful than others. “Orange encourages people to be expressive, blue is a colour connected to summer, reminding us of the blue sea and the bright-blue summer skies, and white is also a good neutral colour for warmer temperatures,” she says. But it’s also important to choose a tone that suits you, she notes. “Everyone sees and responds to colours differently, so the best colour to use in summer to uplift your home interiors would be your favourite colours.”

One way to add colour to your dwelling is through paint. It can make a space feel expansive and can add light and life to a space. It can also create a beautiful summer vibe regardless of the season.

Linda Brander from Wattyl says many of us are looking for a little joy, positivity and even playfulness in summer. “We are seeing this in spades in some of the new colours for summer interiors,” she says. “Wattyl Badaboom is just such a colour! It is upbeat, highly optimistic and full of sheer joy.”

Lavender is also gaining traction as an uplifting choice. Linda says hues such as Wattyl Blueberry Yum Yum have a soft grey undertone, creating a virtual neutral background to pops of colour in artwork and flowers. “It also works well in bedrooms where, when used with deeper hues in bedding and soft furnishings, it creates a restful, cocooning experience.”





LEFT

Designer lighting sets the scene for summer. The Tradition Northern Pendant is a perfect fit for summer living. lightco.com.au

BELOW

Neutral tones with shades of grey and white tell a tale of summer. Burwood Residence by Grace Interior Designs. Photography by Grosmann. graceinteriordesigns.com.au

OPPOSITE

The drop mini pendant by Il Fanale creates a beautiful backdrop for summer entertaining. lightco.com.au

A textured wall is another way to inject some personality into a space. Linda says it adds character, depth and visual intrigue to a room. “A popular choice is the made-for-DIYers FX Super Easy Concrete that mimics the subtle, undulating colour effect of classic Venetian plaster,” she explains.

Flooring choice is another way to add a summery feel in your home. Flooring with a laid-back feel is light, vibrant and comfortable underfoot. Think cork flooring — it’s eco-friendly, comfortable to walk on and has fabulous insulating qualities. Consider bold or colourful tile patterns to add a summer sizzle. Carpet with natural fibres is also a smart choice. Source handcrafted carpeting or rugs, made from organic materials such as seagrass, sisal and jute for a little relaxed luxury.



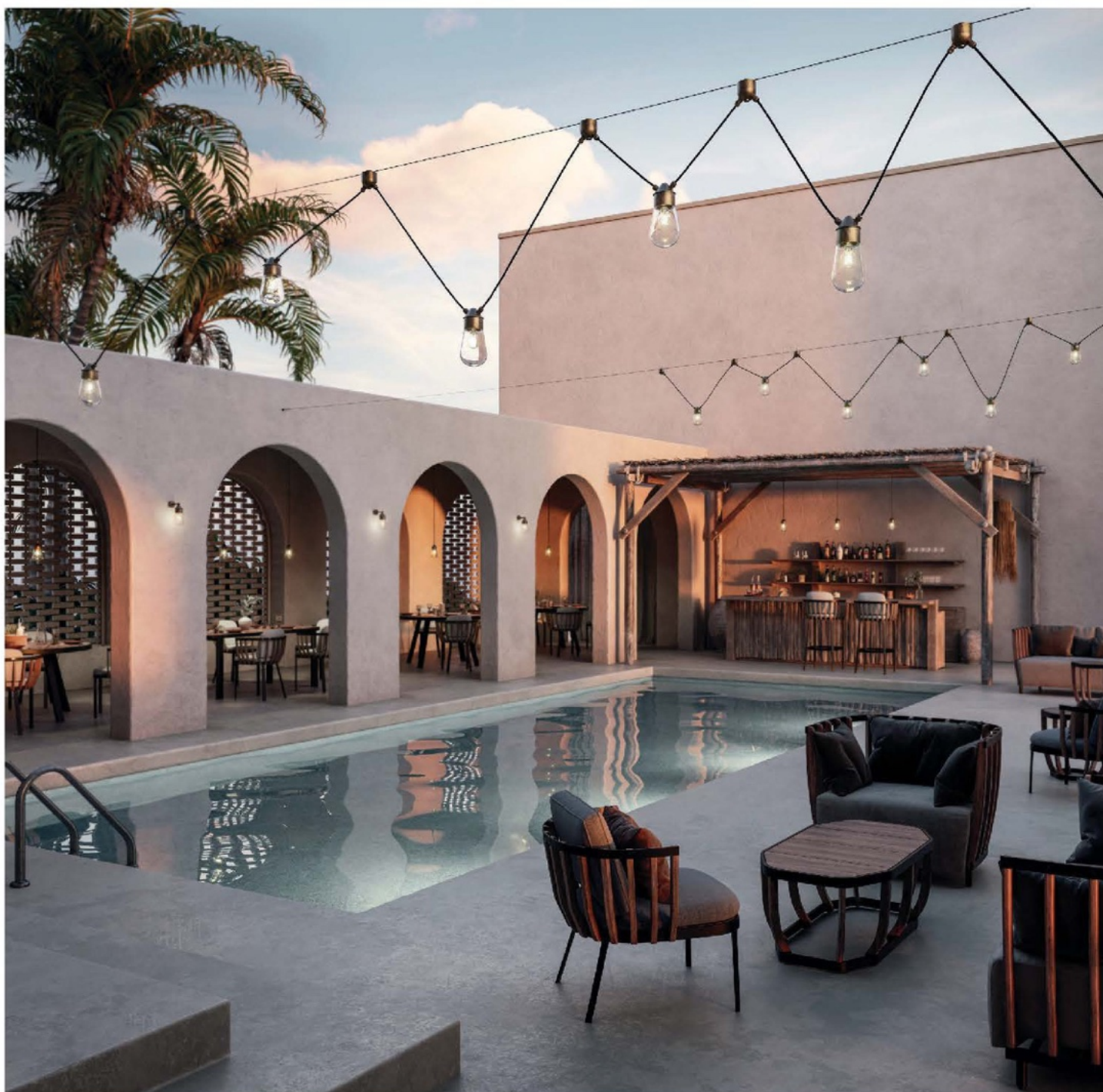
Summer vibe spaces

To create a home that feels like an endless summer, it should be light-filled and welcoming. You could have an artfully curated space that’s all about calm and cool serenity, or take things up a notch with a light, bright and playful ambience.

When adding a summery feel to your abode, focusing on living spaces is important, but so too are other rooms. For a light and airy home office, Trish suggests starting with a light timber desk such as oak and a light-colour desk chair. “Consider the furniture layout and try to maximise natural light,” she adds. “Add greenery such as plants to purify the air and maintain productivity.” And let’s not forget storage solutions. “Purposeful storage is also important to keep your home office clutter-free and feeling light,” says Trish.

In your bathroom or powder room, think of light airy textures. “You might swap your heavy towels for light Turkish-style towels, add plants and a summery fragrance to your hand or body wash,” suggests Trish. “Organic handmade soaps on a locally handmade ceramic soap dish provide a textural element and a natural summery feel.”

When the weather starts to warm up, add a touch of summer in the bedroom with lighter fabrics. For a bedroom refresh, consider lightweight cotton. Justine says you can even swap the duvet for a coverlet or throw as long as you layer sheets. “The trick is to play with tones to achieve a layered look,” she says. “It can still be neutral — layer cream, white or bone tones for a luxe feel, or use soft pretty colours mixed with pattern to create an inviting bed.”



Play with light

Lighting plays a pivotal role in shaping the mood and ambience of any environment. Dario Dal Ponte, general manager of LightCo, says lighting can serve to soften a room, highlight architectural details, and create warmth that influences how we feel. “The right balance of natural and artificial sources transforms a setting from flat and static to layered, dynamic and inviting,” he shares.

To create a summery feel in a living or dining area, Dario suggests a sculptural pendant with a diffused glow. “The Tradition pendant by Northern can act as a statement piece or be grouped to create a light, airy atmosphere,” he notes. “In bedrooms, playful lamps with organic forms, add a soft, sunlit touch, keeping the space feeling fresh and uplifting.”

There are plenty of ways to add a little summer sizzle to your interiors through

lighting. Patrick Lourie, brand manager from EuroLuce, says for a summery feel, uplighting in living or kitchen spaces helps a room feel lifted, open and airy. “It’s perfect for longer days,” he explains. “In the bedroom, adding table or wall lights with a splash of colour brings fun, vibrancy, and that refreshing summer spritz.”

Lamps are a fabulous way to transform your living spaces in style. Patrick



ABOVE

Neutral tones with shades of grey and white tell a tale of summer. Burwood Residence by Grace Interior Designs.

Photography by Grosmann. graceinteriordesigns.com.au

OPPOSITE ABOVE

A light-filled kitchen with vibrant tones adds a summery feel. Burwood Residence by Grace Interior Designs.

Photography by Grosmann. graceinteriordesigns.com.au

OPPOSITE BELOW

Soft sumptuous bedding, a textured rug underfoot, and select decor create a summery feel. vaultinteriors.com.au

says when talking lamps, right now it's all about materiality. "Glass is back in a big way, whether smoked, fluted or coloured, and we're also seeing more natural finishes such as timber, which bring warmth and texture," he says. "The other big look is sculptural pieces that double as artwork and become the hero of the room."

Adding a well-positioned skylight is another way to brighten up your interiors and add a summery feel all year round. A skylight provides natural light, boosts energy efficiency and allows more fresh air to circulate throughout your home.

Take it outside

Summer living is all about cooking outdoors. It might be time to update your dated barbecue for a new model, complete with plenty of cooking options to make entertaining a breeze. If you're planning a complete outdoor kitchen, source quality appliances, and if you enjoy the art of wood-fired oven cooking and the unique flavours of smoked foods, add a pizza oven and smoker to your wish list. An outdoor kitchen with plenty of preparation space simplifies cooking and catering for a crowd.

Art for ambience

Artwork can be the final touch to create a stylish personalised space in a home that feels light, bright and welcoming. Finding the right piece can feel daunting, but it need not be. Nancy Donaldson, CEO and founder of Art Lovers, says choosing artwork doesn't need to feel overwhelming. The key is to trust your instincts. "Start by considering how you want the room to feel: calm and soothing, bold and energising, or something deeply personal, for example," she advises. "Pick a piece that resonates with you emotionally rather than one that simply 'matches' the cushions. A good rule is if it makes you stop and smile, you're on the right track."

In the bedroom, create a restful space that's conducive to slumber with landscape shapes or softer palettes above the bed, suggests Nancy. "In a living space, think bigger and bolder," she says. "A large piece can anchor the room above a sofa or fireplace."

When choosing your art, there is a rule of thumb. "Artwork should be around two-thirds to three-quarters the width of the furniture it's sitting above, so it feels balanced and integrated," says Nancy. "But we break this rule often for the right piece of art."

Deciding on framed or frameless art is another thing to consider and according to Nancy, it's important. "Frames can make or break how artwork sits in a space. Slimline frames create a modern, minimalist look and the frame can link to the furniture or flooring," she says. "Frameless can work well too, particularly with canvases for a contemporary or urban edge where the raw nature of the work is celebrated." 🏠

