



lifestylehome

SUMMER COOLERS

How to lighten up your surroundings and let the sun shine in

Winter's chill is gone, the day's light grows long and thoughts turn to summer. Seasonal change is apparent in your wardrobe—out with heavy sweaters, in with linen dresses—so maybe it's time your home had a change of clothes as well. It's easier and not as costly as you might think.

Using Mitchell Gold's Kathleen II sofa against a backdrop of Benjamin Moore's taupe-tinted Bone White wall paint (with Bavarian Cream trim) as our starting point, we worked with Crate & Barrel to furnish a room in rich bronze, brown and pewter tones. Then we reoutfitted it in the citrus palette C&B released this spring. The result? A sophisticated year-round urban look transformed to reflect the more temperate temperatures outside your door. Here are some basic tips we followed:

■ **Dress things down.** *Relaxed* is the preferred MO for summer, which means rethink anything formal. Cotton slipcovers in white and cool solid shades instantly change the personality of sofas clad in high-style patterns or heavier textiles. Ornate lamps look less stiff with inexpensive paper shades. And don't neglect the floor. A casual sea-grass rug stands in for Michaelian and Kohlberg's luxurious Tibetan loomed one.

■ **Invite in the sun.** Put up sheer draperies and store rich or weighty fabrics. Hunter Douglas's Duetta shades adapt to any season, filtering light and enhancing ▷

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MINH + WASS

Above, a dark palette (bronze, pewter, black) and rich textures (silk, velvet, chenille) provide formal elegance throughout the year. Opposite, sheer window treatments, a light denim slipcover, citrus toss pillows and a clutter check are as transforming as a cool summer breeze.

ZORA AND SLIPCOVERS: MITCHELL GOLD; SIDE CHAIRS, TABLE, LAMPS AND MANY ACCESSORIES: CRATE & BARREL; DUETTE WINDOW SHADES: HUNTER DOUGLAS; WALL PAINTS: BENJAMIN MOORE; AFRICAN ACCENTS, BANGLADESI AFRICAN ENDO AND BARBOLLA: SEA-GRASS RUG, MADAGASCAR FLOORCOVERING, NYC FLOWERS, PROFLORREC.COM FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER SOURCES. SEE SPOT.







energy efficiency by trapping air in the double-layer honeycomb cells. We used the Coffee House color for the darker room and Bisque for a summer effect.

■ **Lighten your palette.** Add white or Ivory wherever possible (Mitchell Gold's Natural Denim slipcover substitutes for Bolero Pine Cone Chenille), and use paler or brighter shades. (Crate & Barrel's Bijou pillows replace its more somber velvet and silk ones.) Cover dark surfaces with light cotton runners or bamboo place mats. Lighten dark walls by switching some of the art with something summery.

■ **Lose clutter.** Walk through the house with a laundry basket, loading it with knickknacks that normally gather dust. (You can always put them back later.)

Open up surfaces and shelf space. Decide what you'll use; pack away or chuck the rest.

■ **Turn on the water.** Keep summer reminders of life lakeside or on the beachfront around—perhaps a basket, stoneware bowl or glass dish filled with shells, river rocks or fishing lures.

■ **Be green.** Plants cleanse the air and supply a room with oxygen. Group a few potted plants on a table or in a corner. With cut flowers, simplicity should rule: Mixtures of loosely arranged meadow blossoms or bouquets of a single cultivated variety look and feel easy. Proflowers.com provided its formal-looking Fascination bouquet for the dark room and bunches of fresh-faced tulips for the summer room. ■



Top, lighter looks with bamboo and less clutter. Middle, summer white on the windows. Bottom, mixing bowls with seashells displace the heavy Moroccan tray.