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5 MINUTES WITH INTERIOR ARCHITECT ALANNA SMIT

Plantation furniture has seen a revival in recent years, especially here in Australia where materials that let a little breeze through are welcome in our often unkind climate. We caught up with interior architect Alanna Smit to talk about working Plantation furniture into a project.

Alanna Smit - who we have nicknamed the ‘India Hicks of Sydney’s Northern Beaches’ dropped into the Sydney Showroom recently giving us the chance to ask some questions for our blog.

Alanna, what do you love most about (plantation) style?

For me Plantation has the right balance of curiosity and casual. It can be truly sophisticated, luxurious and chic but when done right can also be completely relaxed, liveable and functional for day to day family living.

I love interesting homes that are welcoming, warm but not pretentious and Plantation style does this perfectly. It also goes hand in hand with coastal living and Alfresco living which is very predominate in Australia.

Once you have the balance right basically anything goes, you can throw a Mexican tapestry, modernist artwork or a French venetian mirror into the mix and it just continues to get better!

It’s a style that shows individual personality and tells a story about the people who live there.



What if you don’t live in a coastal area, or in a hamptons or federation style home? What are some ways to bring that Raffles Hotel vibe in anyway?

Yes a crystal blue body of water nearby really helps achieve this look lol! But its not essential.

Landscaping however is an essential part regardless of whether it’s a large garden house or an apartment, greenery, foliage and natural elements are everything! This is one area NOT to skimp on.

Structurally if you have a more modern paired back canvas to work with there are still some things you can add to trick the eye along with furnishings. Focusing on some of those smaller details like cornices, architraves, door hardware, wall finishes like panelling or Malawi wallpaper from Boyd Blue and the addition of feature lighting/fans.

Give your canvas some attention as the layering process starts here and finish with your furnishings, textiles and a few hero antiques or upcycled pieces.

Having cruised around the showroom today, what would be your take home pieces to bring a little plantation in?



It was impossible to walk past the boyd Blue Plantation bedhead to complete my master bedroom, I would have taken the side tables too if I could have fitted them in the space!

The entire collection of Arteriors lamps all work insanely well and lamp lighting is a big part of creating this look. The Kashi and Nepali rugs add luxury with the bamboo silk finish and the colours are all perfect or better yet splash out on the Baha in ASH, it’s a killer piece of pattern and sheen perfection!

I also could fill my car 3 times over with the carefully curated selection of curiosity’s from compasses, coral, trays and bone boxes.

Alanna’s home and projects have featured in Australian House & Garden, Home Beautiful and the Manly Daily as

well as online sites The Grace Tales and The Rhapsody. Recently, Alanna appeared on Foxtel production Love It Or List It, worked alongside presenter and Vogue Living editor Neale Whitaker on the redesign and renovation of a St Ives Chase (Sydney) property.

As an accredited interior designer, Alanna is experienced not only in the creation of inspiring interiors, but also in the structural design of commercial and residential properties. Her knack for creating truly inspired, liveable spaces is beautifully displayed across a number of properties in Sydney, the Southern Highlands and country New South Wales. Thank you Alanna! Click here to follow Alanna on Instagram or visit <http://alannasmit.com.au/>