

Photo courtesy  
HomeWork Design Studio



# What's trending in Caribbean decorating

## Home Sweet HOME

**flooring and walls used now?**

**RW:** A contemporary aesthetic is very popular now and has been for a while and I believe will continue to be – this usually leads to clean lines and large volume spaces. Floors and walls are crucial in the design process in those circumstances as they bring the warmth, texture and play of light to the room. If I had to choose particular materials and products

I would say that wood floors and/or highly polished very large tiles are popular choices. For walls I'd say that wallpaper has made a huge comeback and I am a big fan.

**W**hen you think about decorating in the Caribbean, our minds automatically think of the rainbow—red hibiscus flowers, breathtaking sunsets, golden yellow sunshine, vibrant greens, calm blue seas and warm sand, cool breezes. Due to the many influences of the myriad of cultures which our islands have embraced, Caribbean decorating is as diverse as it is dynamic. You can see the influence of our first citizens—Arawaks and Caribs, the Spanish, Indian, Chinese, British, European, French, Asian and African, just to name a few which depicts in glorious harmony our fusion of past and present history.

Lisa Jessamy, for Home Sweet Home, discusses some trends of decorating in the Caribbean.

with Randall Waddell, Principal Interior Designer at HomeWork Design Studio.

**LJ: How would you define Caribbean Interior Design? What do you think influences this?**

**RW:** I think that Caribbean Interior Design is sophisticated and worldly without losing the reference to our surroundings; as we are continually influenced by light, colour and texture.

**LJ: What are the trends in colour and textures?**

**RW:** In both colour and textures - Neutrals are evermore, used in conjunction with bold colours they can create warmth, distinction and character in a space - which is vital.

**LJ: What is the most popular furnishing used to highlight a space?**

**RW:** Interesting question – I'm not sure that I can define one, as each room and its related function will have its own special

piece; i.e. bedroom – the bed is the focus, the living room the sofa is usually - although I'm particularly drawn to coffee tables more than seating as I find they can be a real conversation piece.

**LJ: How has the use of lighting changed in the Caribbean?**

**RW:** Dramatically. I think people understand that a beautiful light fixture can be a focal point of a room, however multiple levels of lighting are just as important to keep it interesting – and I think this has been a change from simple lighting plans which basically covered task lighting. Lighting would be the singular important design element, as it usually transforms the space and plays a vital role in highlighting aspects of the room which in turn, plays on the mood and drama.

**LJ: What is the most popular type of**

**LJ: Does space have anything to do with the style chosen?**

**RW:** Absolutely. I believe that the character of the architecture is the cover to the story and the spaces within are the chapters that fill it—the whole “book” must come together holistically to be successful!

A home is a place we dwell and experience some of the most pleasurable moments in our lives such as marital bliss; putting baby to bed; watching our children play and dining together as a family or with friends on delicious, home-cooked meals. Enhancing your home is one of the best investments you can make both from a tangible and an intrinsic standpoint. Having an attractive and functional home enhances the quality of your life as well as how you function daily.