

LIVING *Sims*

Interviews:

FraniJo

Krissuliin

Living Sims Around the World

Finds:

Hot and New

Outdoor Finds

Something Amazing

and much more!

Themed:

Yard Crashers

Pension Xenias

Road trip!

Challenge Features:

Roll your room

Pets on Furniture 2.0

Assignment: Living Sims

Editorial

Busy Summer

This issue has been under way for quite some time, and it was a bit of struggle to get it finished. Quite a lot of staffers have had to cut back or retire over the summer, so we are running a skeleton crew here. If you want to see LivingSims continue into the future, please consider joining the staff!

Before I explain what this issue is going to feature, I have to do a shout-out to some of the staffers that helped create the finished product you are reading today. Maron, you have done amazing ads. Moxxa, the same goes for you. Kitkat, I do not know what we would do without your consistent hard work on every single issue. Mrmiss, thank you for stepping up and not only writing some great articles, but also being responsible for a truckload of photographs this issue. GigaRevival, we would not have any articles finished if it had not been for your proofreading (and welcome to the staff!). Jaguwar, Ankuuh, and Littlecat, thank you for all your help with this issue, especially for the advertisement pictures.

Okay, I will stop sounding like an award acceptance speech and tell you about the issue. The theme for this issue is outdoor living; and we also have a mini-interview with all the staffers who work on LivingSims, so we hope you enjoy that. We, of course, also have interviews with community members, Kriisullin and FraniJo, who both have done some amazing designs and decorations. I've likely forgotten half of the articles, but I sincerely hope you enjoy all of them and find them inspiring. If you haven't already, please join us at the forum and take part in one of our crazy and random challenges!

All the best

Macthekat



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Join the LivingSims team and
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Maron

NB all finds have a direct link to the website
where you can download the object

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3 Colors

Summer is upon us, and it is time to bring it into your bedroom. Get rid of those dark colors and give your bedroom the fresh look it deserves. Most people like their bedrooms to be calm and without too much color. Well, in this one we did the exact opposite, nothing is left untouched and pops of color are all around.

#BBBE51

#8AC7D1

#EDD64E

It is important that this use of color is done with care and an eye for detail. The base of the room is light blue. It is a color that most people like, and it is often chosen for smaller spaces. This shade makes a wonderful color to use in your home, especially for a bedroom or nursery. Blue also is liked by most people, so you can't go wrong with it. In this case, a powder blue tone is used on the walls, giving the room a soft feeling. To make more of a statement, a brighter blue was used on the rug and pillows. The advantage of using blue is that you can use it in so many different shades. It can freshen up a room, but also tone it down and make it soft. In this room it was used for both.

Article by: Ankuuh



The soft blue base of the bedroom makes the green accents pop. We chose a green floral printed bedspread to get that feel of summer. Green embodies freshness, summer, happiness and joy. Because it is so bright, it draws your attention directly to the objects in the room you want to get the attention to. In this case, a huge inviting bed. To make sure the bed didn't draw all the attention on its own, we opted for green details throughout the rest of the bedroom. For example, the wardrobe also has accents of green. A light crème color was chosen for the bed linens and other accents, giving the room an extra fresh look. It makes the green pop but also tones it down a bit. After all, it is a bedroom.

With bright tones of blue, greens, yellows etc., you have to be careful to make sure your room doesn't look fragmented. To counteract that possibility, it is always smart to use a base that makes the pieces of a room fall in place. In this case it is a light brown that does that. Not only was it chosen for the wooden floor and wall behind the bed, but it is also used on the sheer curtains. It gives you a romantic feel and goes perfectly with the blues and greens used.





The SIMS⁴

LIVING *Sims* dreams & hopes



When EA/Maxis announced – at long last – the arrival of The Sims 4, simmers around the world generally rejoiced. Then they began wondering what was in store for them, which led to a lot of wishful (and perhaps somewhat wistful) thinking. Here's what our staff and forum members are hoping to see.

Article by Jaguwar



The announcement of a new Sims game led us to ask our members the following:

- What would you like to see in Sims 4, with regards to Build/Buy options?
- Is there anything from Sims 1 or 2 they should bring back?
- Are there any new features they should make?
- Is there anything you would love them to keep from Sims 3?
- We have collected this data over the course of 3 months, and we present the results here.

Buy mode:

In buy mode, many of the wishes had to do with the aesthetics of the game, such as cupboards that hide when walls are turned down, neon lights for a more “realistic” city neighborhood, and a larger selection of buyable plants.

Other suggestions had to do with more flexibility: curtains that do NOT snap to the walls (and can be moved up and down the wall, for that matter), more simple modern options for all kinds of objects, and a better shelving system.

Build mode:

Walls, Windows, and Doors

Build mode suggestions were even more detailed. One of the most popular ideas was that of round walls. Not diagonal, not somewhat octagonal - round. That does present a problem with the next wish though, which is for more complete window and door sets.

Let me talk about that for a minute. Don’t you just hate when you can think of the perfect door, but you can’t use it because it’s only available as a single door, or only a double door, or doesn’t have “centered” options?

That could be solved, perhaps, with another idea we found interesting: a smaller grid. If doors and windows could work within a grid half the size of the one in Sims 3, allowing elements to be shifted to one side or the other by what would now be half a tile, a lot of positioning problems could be solved.

As for windows, the general consensus seems to be that they should also be available in 1-tile, 2-tile, 3-tile, and their respective “centered”

versions. Additionally, if they came with matching doors, that would be even better. Oh! And perhaps they could be shifted up and down too, while we’re making them more versatile in their placement. And able to open and close with curtains that move in the breeze. (We did warn there was wishful thinking involved, right?)

Top to bottom: Roofs and foundations

Sometimes, it’s funny how things work out. The Sims 4 was announced in late March. The wish list was started in early April. In June, Island Paradise was released, bringing with it one of the favorite wishes: stilted foundations. Well done EA! Can we have them right off the bat in The Sims 4, please? Thank you.

In the meantime, there are plenty of other things the LivingSims community (and simmers the world over) would like to see. By far the most discussed topic had to do with roofs. We want better control of how far they stick out over a building because in real life, they don’t always protrude so drastically.

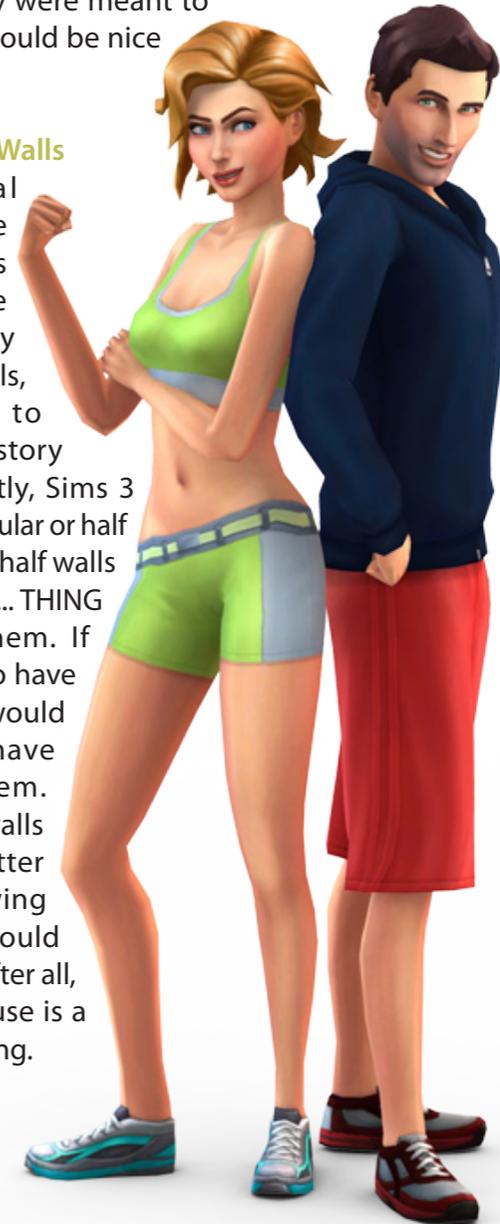
We want roofs that slope in any direction (if you’ve ever fought with the half gable roof, trying to make the slope go one way when the game insists it must slope another, you’ll have an idea what we’re going on about!). We also want to be able to recolor or CAS the underside of roofs, because sometimes we want the roof “exposed”. In fact, more realistic and simpler dormers would be fantastic. Sometimes our sims want to use the attic space, after all.

Speaking of dormers and exposed roof underbellies, sometimes we build two-story rooms, but the resulting lighting is atrocious because of the way the game engine handles “levels.” Shouldn’t the light from that beautiful chandelier on the second floor provide some light to the lower floor? For that matter, why is the sunlight not reaching all the way down? That should be fixed too. Once we fix that, perhaps we can have skylights as well. Not to mention two-story windows.

Foundations are another sticky point. As it is now, split levels are difficult, basements are hard to create, and half basements... forget it! As it stands now, the CFE cheat (ConstrainFloorElevation) does allow us to join foundations to walls laid directly on the floor; however, CASTing them is a nightmare. Because the two walls are considered to be on different floors, the lighting is invariably wrong. Additionally, the textures on the adjoining walls have an awful habit of distorting, rather than continuing in whatever direction they were meant to follow. That would be nice to fix too.

Holding it in: Walls

In the real world, there are all kinds of walls: knee walls, pony walls, half walls, in addition to regular, one-story walls. Currently, Sims 3 limits us to regular or half walls, and the half walls all have some... THING on top of them. If we’re going to have half walls, it would be nice to have more of them. Regardless, walls that do a better job of following the terrain would be nice too. After all, a cliffside house is a wonderful thing.





Move it along: Stairs

Staircases are rather simple things, really, and yet they can literally change the layout of an entire house. In the next iteration of The Sims franchise, diagonal stairs, modular stairs, fold away attic stairs, and ladders would be appreciated.

All over the place: Miscellany

A few other build elements in the Sims 3 are bugging our readers: chimneys that can't be recolored and the limitations on how many floors we can have are at the top of the list. Ever heard of skyscrapers? We have too!

Finally, there are other things that would be... well, cool to have:

- Smaller tiles
- Stackable stage tools that can be placed next to walls
- Grungier selections of doors
- A larger selection of neighborhood objects
- Objects for building bridges
- Tools to build tunnels, caves, and passageways
- Whew, that's quite a round-up!

Landscaping: The icing on the cake

When we build a house or community lot, the finishing touch (at least on the outside) has to be the landscaping. From the rocks, trees, plants and bushes, not to mention the terrain itself, real life lots are rarely perfectly flat. In fact, sometimes they are very steep. If we could easily step the landscape, we could create more interesting yards, wherever appropriate.

But the single biggest landscaping bugaboo has to be plants that go through walls. Who thought that was a good idea? Walls should "clip" extraneous greenery, allowing us to put trees, plants, and bushes as close to a building as we want, without having to worry about pesky plants literally invading the interior.

Unsurprisingly, since we tend to concentrate on building in the LivingSims community, the build mode items list is longer.

Do you agree with this list? Did we miss anything? Share with us on our continuing The Sims 4 wishes thread.



hot & new



Duo Bathroom 3t2
Veranka

hot & new

Ivy Overlay
Yuxi



Apothecary Cabinets 3t2
m0xxa

Desordre Conversion Set
Maron @ GOS



hot & new



Random Island Paradise Items 3t2
Veranka



Matt's Birds
mustlucvatz



Craftsman Set
buggybooz



Bed Blanket Cat
Min @ BPS

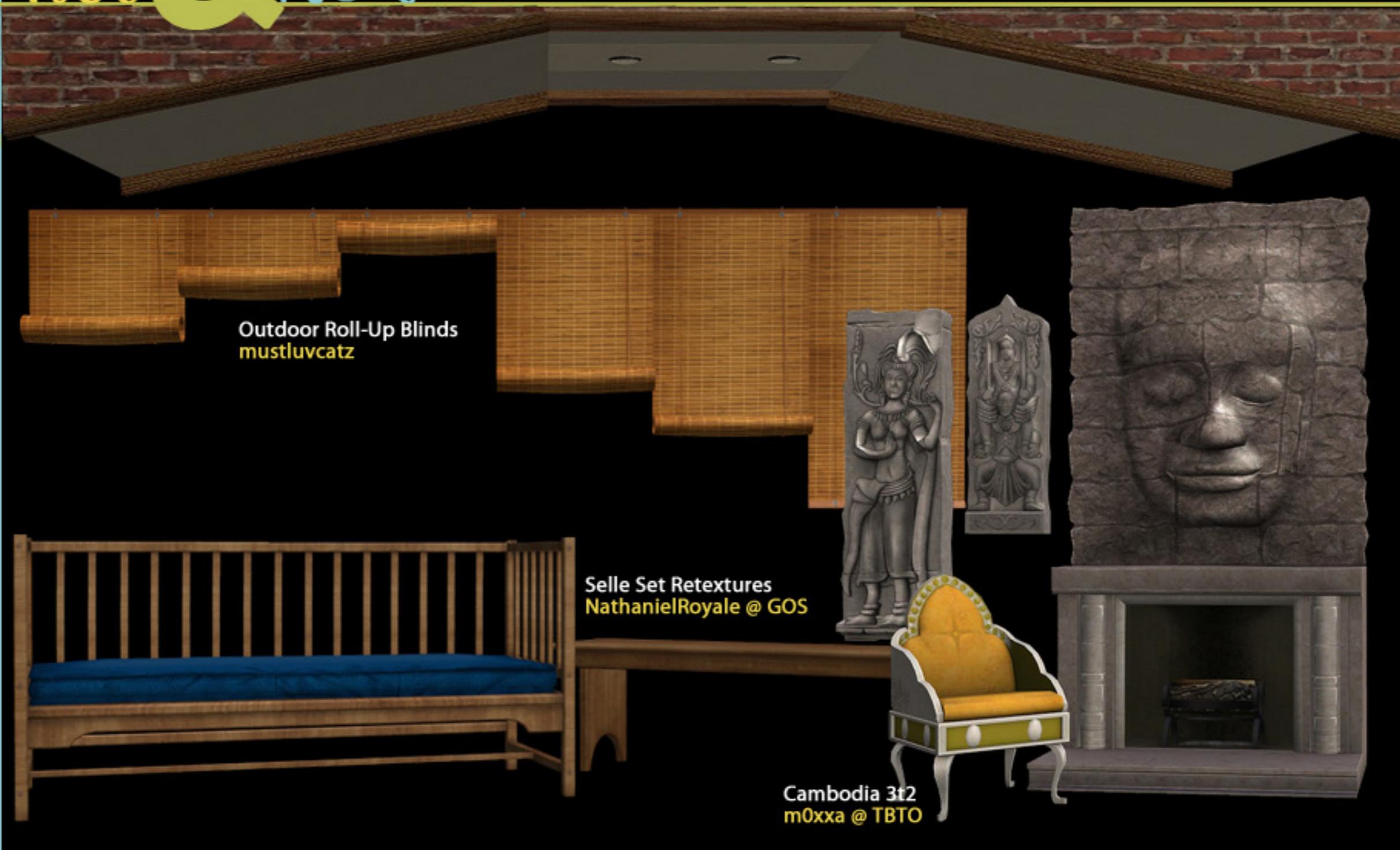
hot & new

Attic Ceilings
Tinkle

Outdoor Roll-Up Blinds
mustlucatz

Selle Set Rerextures
NathanielRoyale @ GOS

Cambodia 3t2
m0xxa @ TBTO



hot & new



Under The Roof
Angela

Road Sign Furniture
ATS2

Coffee Bean Hipster Loft 3t2
Veranka



DINNER PARTIES*

* NOW SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES



Designer Tips

Article by *macthekat*

Photographs by *east108th, HannahJo, Simbabe54, narcissims, marandile, tanpeaches & catvonpaxton*

TIP #2

Do as many of our designers have done this summer, and use exposed brickwork as a statement in your room. Match it up with some soft pieces, and you have a cozy yet edgy room that's perfect for any city dweller.



TIP #1

Not every room needs a lot of clutter to feel lived in. A few carefully placed pieces can be just as effective, especially if you place them with care. Choose well-designed furniture and use texture to your advantage as east108th has done in this beautiful bedroom with a view.





TIP #3

Be bold and brave and create a kitchen with colour, especially if your space doesn't have much going for it on its own. This old kitchen has gotten a lick of paint and a statement fridge for an update. Simbabe54 balanced out the bold red and blue by using splashes of white.

TIP #4

Narcissims shows us how a monochrome colour scheme can come to life by pairing it with a few brightly coloured pieces and geometric patterns. The monochrome room acts as a beautiful backdrop for the decor and balances things out so that the room is not too busy, allowing the mind to focus on the colorful accents.





TIP # 5

A two-story loft is always dramatic and even more-so when the construction of the room is left bare then matched with surfaces of a polished finish. In this room, east108th has left the ceiling beams exposed, but has finished the walls with smooth paint and contrasted the white with a beautiful hardwood floor. The decor is simple and effective, keeping the space modern without being too cold.

TIP #6

A designer's study can be a tricky thing because you want to make both a functional space and one that oozes creativity. HannahJo has managed just that by keeping the main decor simple and adding impact pieces, such as the clothing dummies and colorful carpet. She enhanced the effect by taking her picture on an angle, which really adds to the drama of the shot.





TIP #7

While most of the other designers this summer have taken us to understated rooms, marandile takes us somewhere completely different. This houseboat is bold, and it has colour to spare. She manages to make this all work together beautifully by keeping the saturation of the colours the same, while the hues contrast nicely. The mid-century modern furniture works well with the colours she has chosen and gives the impression that the statement furniture is not old fashioned or worn.

TIP #8

In this modern nursery, tanpeaches shows us how to combine a modern, minimalistic design with the softness and playfulness that is standard for a baby's room. The saturated, yet muted, colours along with attention to the little details are what make this all come together fluidly. There is room for the child here; it is not all design.



TIP #9

Our staffer catvonpaxton just moved to a new house with her toddler. She showed us what she planned for the nursery for her little boy in this room. Her design is bold, using strong colours without it being jarring, which is hard to pull off. She does this by breaking up the colours by using natural materials and a bit of white.



AWESOME
AWESIMS
CONVERSION
SET *by mexoca*

Boat Sweet Boat

FARFALLESIMS.TUMBLR.COM



SOMETHING. *amazing*

Curtains for Craftsman Chic Windows
pocci - gardenbreeze

Craftsman Chic
b5-studio

Cadence Dining Set
Simscredible

Calico Nursery
pilar

White Brick Cafe Dining Set
pocci - gardenbreeze

Summer Breeze Kids Clutter
ung999



Vintage Lawn Chair
gelnabuilds



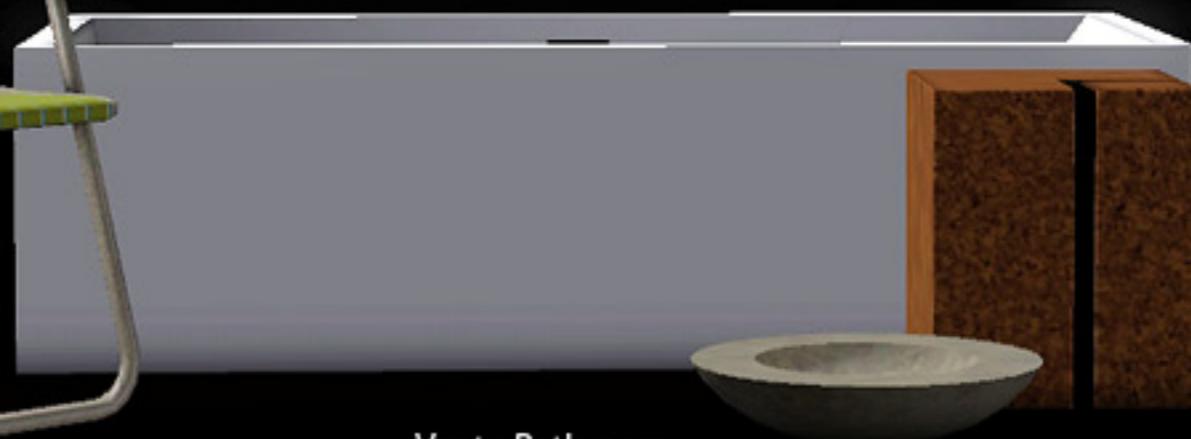
HiLo Pendant Lights
marcussims



Coffee Cup Chair
marcussims



Vento Bathroom
Falko



Saylor Children's Room
Rennara



Enigma Bedroom
Severinka



Ilona Likes IKEA
ATS3



Teddy Bear Chair
pocci



USE A PROPER STOOL



Bekvam



Ask Dina

askdina@livingsims.net

Dear Dina,
My husband and I have a full house with six kids and counting! Our house is big, but not that big. Our twins are stuck sharing a room; and, while that was fine when they were toddlers, now that they've grown a bit more we've run into a problem. They're complete opposites! Our little girl loves lilac and stuffed animals, and our little boy is obsessed with lime green and all things sports. We want to redo their bedroom now that they've outgrown their cribs, but how in the world do you fit two clashing personalities into such a small space? Help!

Sincerely,
Cramped and Confused

Article by kitkat
Photographs by kiare



47 • Ask Dina



Dear Confused,

I can feel your pain, but this is really not an insurmountable problem! The first thing you need to do is to establish two separate spaces within the area. In a small room, you don't want to do anything too drastic to divide it up, but building a small section of half-wall is one way to go. A curtain in a neutral shade can be used in conjunction with this and pulled when the kids desire a little more separation.

Don't be afraid to let your kids make the space their own. In a child's room, it won't look odd if one side is covered with sports posters and the other is overflowing with stuffed animals, as long as you have taken a few steps beforehand

to unify the space in some way. Using a neutral shade on the walls and flooring and pulling these throughout the room will provide the perfect backdrop for your kids' personalities to shine.

Luckily, lilac and green can actually be used quite nicely together in a color scheme, so using them as the base color for each child's section of the room will work well. Just be sure to pick shades that are similar in hue and intensity to make both sides of the room harmonious.

Kids this age need activity space as well as sleeping space in their rooms. Do yourself a favor and plan for this, or they will quickly spill out of their rooms and take over the entire



house! Bunk beds are a great way to solve the space issue. By raising the bed, you can use the space underneath for a desk or lounge space, doubling the use of the area.

All my best, Dina







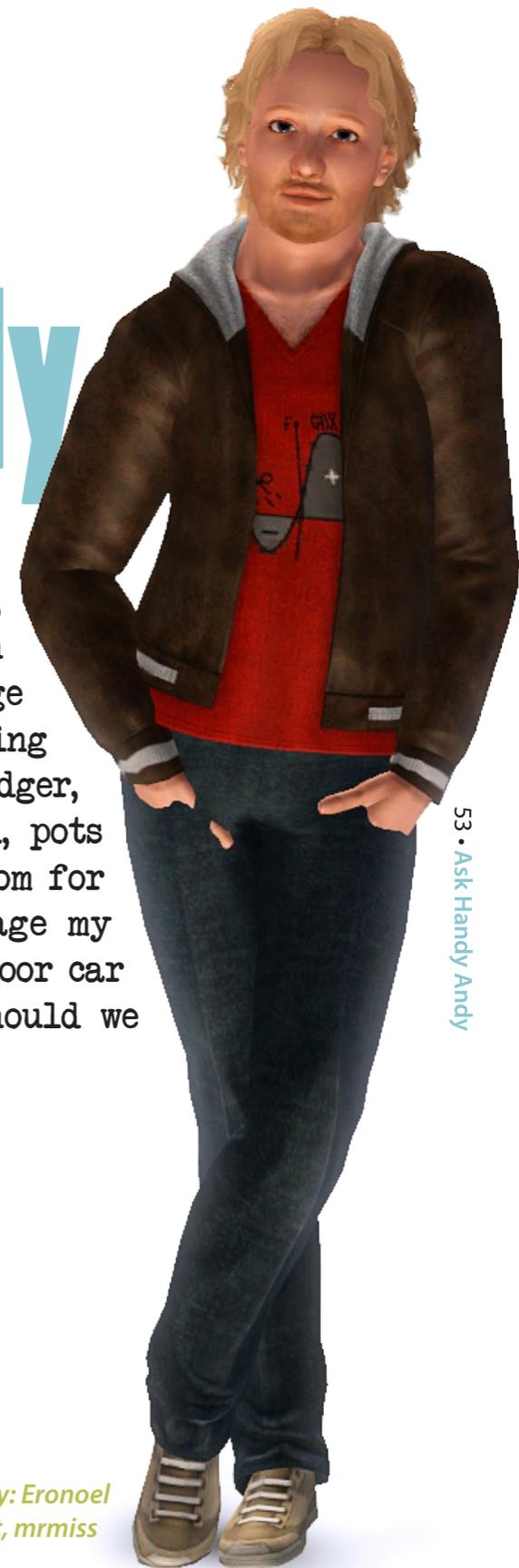
billyjean
CURIO BEDROOM

Ask

HandyAndy

Dear Andy,
My husband is a great gardener. And, don't get me wrong, I love the fresh veggies in the summer; but our garage is filled to the brim with gardening supplies. There is a lawn mower, an edger, a chainsaw, a ladder, potting soil, pots and clippers, but absolutely no room for our car! I don't want to discourage my sweetie from his passion, but our poor car has no place to call home. What should we do?

Sincerely,
Feeling a Tad Green



53 • Ask Handy Andy

Article by: Eronoel
Photographs by: macthekat, mrmis



Dear Feeling a Tad Green,

I know from personal experience that garages can fill up with everything (including a kitchen sink!). In your case, your garage is overflowing with gardening supplies, so I would suggest moving them out to the garden. You can build yourself a small gardening shed in the backyard to store all those tools, and the supplies will be much more accessible for your husband.

If you are thinking, as I often do, of the eyegore that tin sheds can be - don't worry! Sheds have come a long way in the past few years. You can find a model that matches your style and budget and that is still entirely utilitarian.

Based on the pictures you sent of your home and yard, I would suggest building a small Victorian-style shed. Just take your typical shed, add a vintage door, a colorful coat of paint and some gingerbread trim. No one will guess that the inside is filled with potting soil, plants and tools. By building a tiny shed, not only will your car be in its rightful place again, but you can still enjoy those fresh, summer veggies.

Good luck,

Andy

Before



Dear Handy Andy,
 Now that summer is here, my wife and I have decided that it's time to turn the extra bedroom on the back of the house into a sunroom. It has a wonderful view of the backyard gardens, and we would like to have a relaxing place to sit with a great view of the yard. Unfortunately, that room is also our guest room; so we need to find a way to keep a bed in there, too. We just don't know where to begin. Help!
 Needing Some Sun



Dear Needing Some Sun,

What you are looking for has many names around the world – sunroom, four seasons porch, or Arizona room – but they all have one function: to let you enjoy the outdoors without having to actually be out of doors! Based on the pictures you sent in, your extra bedroom can easily be changed into a four seasons porch.

First you will need to add many more windows. Just line them up around the exterior edge of the porch. I recommend using large windows so you can get the most sun beams

in your new space. To give the porches a more exterior feel, forgo the curtains. With all the sun you can add plenty of plants in your new space.

If you put a couch out there that can pull out into a sleeper, you could double your porch as a guest room. With your new porch, you can open those windows and enjoy the summer without those pesky bugs, so enjoy!

All my best,

Andy



Tip:

Tessa and I are just finishing up with some small renovations for our bedroom. Tessa picked out a pair of French doors to put on our closets which she thought would add some extra flair. Unfortunately, even though the doors are beautiful, the glass provided a view into our (sometimes untidy) closet; after all there is a reason we have

doors on the closet! So, I removed the glass and replaced it with mirrors. Not only do the mirrors keep the things in our closet hidden, but they also make the room look bigger. Tessa can also use the mirrors when dressing and primping her hair. It's amazing what a simple swap can do for your room.



The Kenspa



A Little Piece of Italy

Assignment: LivingSims



We sent several of our loyal readers on assignment across the globe to get their take on some of the more unusual local celebrations out there. Their travel experiences will delight and amaze you!

*Article by lylim6, Bridelyn & anejline
Photographs by lylim6, Bridelyn & anejline*

SLIP ON A SHIRT
SLOP ON THE 30+ SUNSCREEN
SLAP ON A HAT



lylim6

The Assignment:

You will be traveling to the city of Kuching in the state of Sarawak in Malaysia.

While in Kuching, you will be attending the Rainforest World Music Festival, one of the largest world music festivals in the world.

I've been planning to visit Malaysia for a while now and, having just recently graduated, I decided to finally do it. At first, I thought of visiting its capital, Kuala Lumpur, but I wanted something different, and I don't really think that staying in a big city in a high rise hotel is going to be the experience I'm looking for. Luckily, I

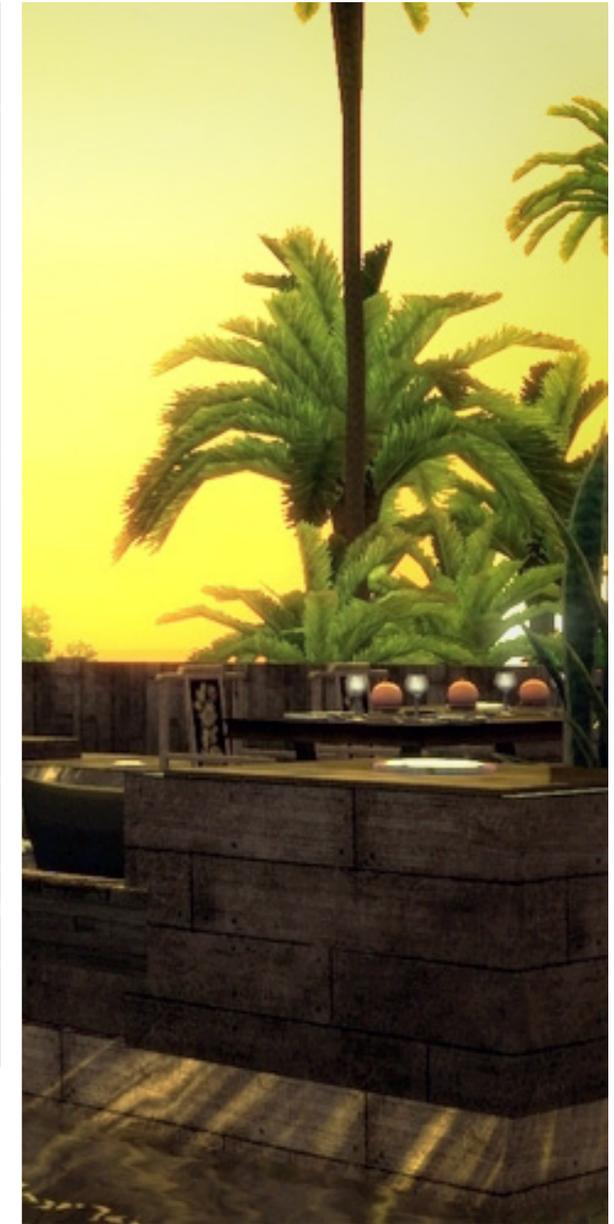
have a friend who invited me to visit Kuching for the annual Rainforest Music Festival.

The Rainforest Music Festival is a 3-day event and was held this year at the end of June. The festival emphasizes the use of traditional acoustic world instruments and artists from all over the world come to perform.

As one of the largest musical events in Malaysia, not only the locals but a lot of foreigners as well travel to Kuching just to attend the 3 day event. I decided to go to Kuching a week early so that I could do some sightseeing and just relax at the lovely resort villa I'm staying at.

To be honest, when I saw the online pictures of the villa, it became the main reason I was so excited to travel to Malaysia. The main material used in the villa is local hardwood, and it creates a very warm and rustic feel. The structure is surrounded by a water feature and a clear pool to give the impression that it's floating on the water. The layout of the villa is open with almost no enclosed rooms, which really lets nature be part of the design.

I can't wait to experience the local ambience and learn more about this exciting and exotic country.







Bridelyn

The Assignment:

You will be traveling to the city of Buñol in the Valencia area of Spain. And you will be participating in La Tomatina, the yearly festival that involves the world's largest tomato fight.

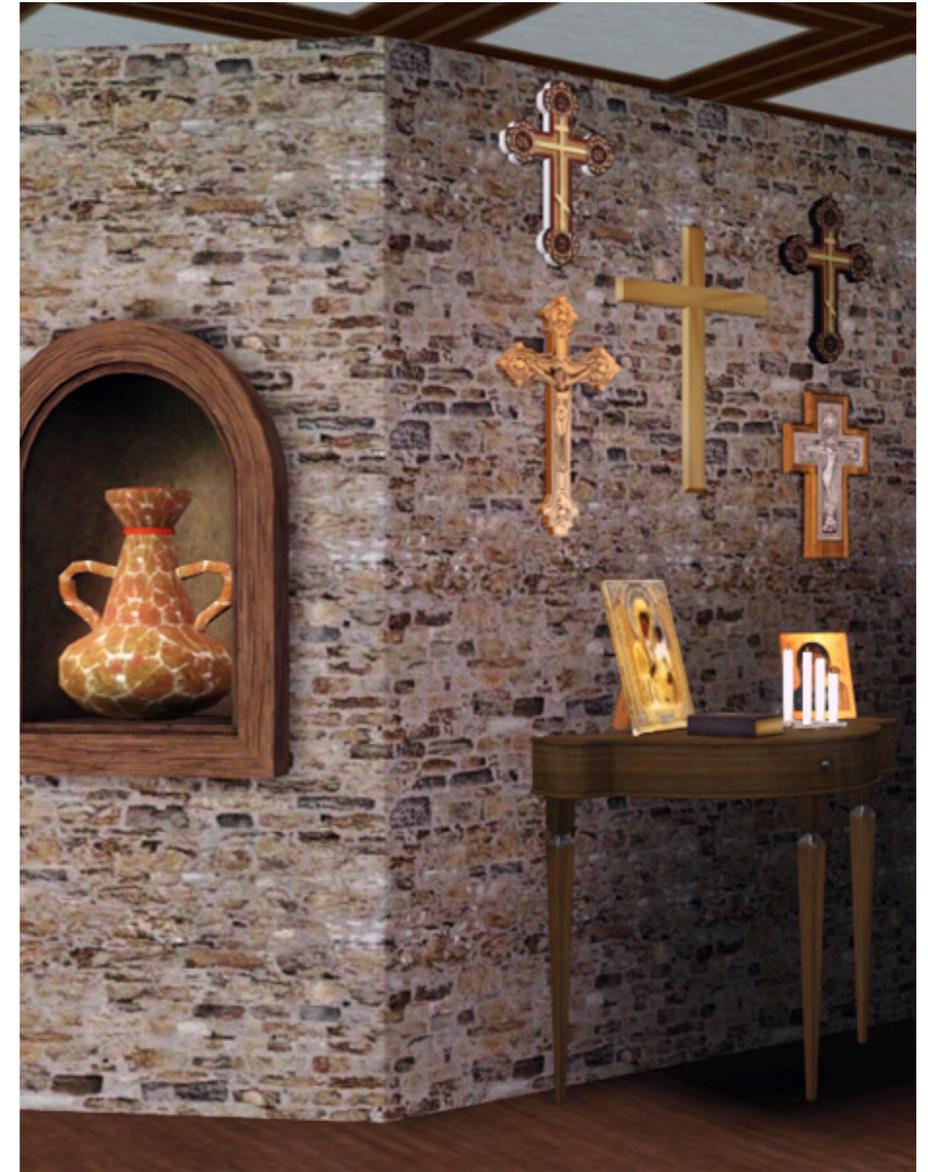
Jacinta and I met on the internet a few years ago and hit it off immediately. She has a quirky sense of humour that always makes me laugh. Over the years, we have become very close. We chat about many different things, some serious and some silly, but the one thing Jacinta always talks about is her beautiful homeland, Buñol Spain.

Buñol is in the province of Valencia. It lies along the Buñol River and is surrounded by mountain ranges. After listening to Jacinta rave about the place for years, I finally decided to pack my bags and go see it for myself (and finally meet Jacinta, too)! I arranged my trip for the end of August, so I could participate in Buñol's famous annual festival, La Tomatina.

Jacinta met me at the airport in Valencia. I was a little nervous about meeting her for the first time. What if we had nothing to talk about? My fears were put to rest when she greeted me with

a big, warm hug. It felt as if we had known each other forever. We got in her car and headed out to Buñol, less than an hour away, with Jacinta pointing out places of interest as she drove.

When we arrived at her home, I was amazed. It was a newer home, yet it was built in the traditional Spanish style. The front courtyard had an inviting pool and lots of beautiful flowers. I stood there soaking in the amazing stone work on the house, the exquisite tiles and columns, and the traditional terracotta tiled roof. And





what courtyard would be complete without a magnificent fountain?

Although Jacinta's house was truly beautiful, my favourite place was the living room. It was modern, yet there was a lot of old world charm. She brought the outside in with a warm colour scheme and natural materials. Being that Spain is a Catholic country, Jacinta had a little area in the living room where religious icons were displayed. She explained that it was a family tradition dating back hundreds of years.

The living room opened up onto the courtyard and allowed the fresh air and breezes to flow through. The room was decorated in the traditional white plaster with dark wood. She also used a lot of wrought iron in her décor. I really loved how she had some stone work in the room and a little niche to display a family heirloom.

The beautiful fireplace was the main focal point, and the sun mirror above showed Jacinta's personality well. And what would a Spanish living room be without a wine rack displaying some delicious Spanish wine? (Yes I did partake in a few glasses!)

During my time in Buñol, we visited many beautiful and interesting places. In the center of town was the Castle of Buñol. There are beautiful gardens and parks throughout the city. One night we went to Circuit Ricardo Tormo to watch the race cars.

But the event Buñol is most famous for is La Tomatina. This occurs the last Wednesday of August every year. We woke up early and headed to the town square to enjoy a breakfast of pastries and rolls. There was a large pole erected in the town that was all soaped up and had a large ham on top. Much to our delight, many dared to make the climb to retrieve the prize.

At 11:00 am, a shot was fired to announce the start of the fight. Trucks carrying loads of "ammunition" appeared with the riders throwing the first tomatoes. Within seconds, everything turned red and the fight continued until the second shot was fired. We, along with the other participants, were hosed down with water at the end. A great time was had by all, and I have to say that I will never look at a tomato the same way again!





annejline

The Assignment:

You will be traveling to the town of Willow Creek in Humboldt County California in the United States. While there, you will be attending the annual Bigfoot Days celebration and maybe visiting the Bigfoot museum.

My name is Fiona, and I am a reporter for the famous LivingSims magazine. Fancy that! In my latest assignment, I was told to investigate a hypothetical hairy hominid that supposedly lurks in the backwoods of the United States.

Indeed, my editor mrrmiss, can think of nothing better than to send me to that crazy place called Willow Creek in Humboldt County California to attend one of the weirdest festivals of all times - the Bigfoot Festival! What did I ever do to deserve such an assignment? Moreover, as if my punishment was not yet severe enough, I will be staying in a log cabin with no modern comfort at all. Even the bathroom facilities are outside.

So here I am, off to Willow Creek. On arriving, I must admit it's a very beautiful place with all the gigantic redwoods and numerous rivers all over. I am most surprised at how lovely the place of my lodging is.

The cabin is a typical, small log cabin backed against a cliff from which splashes a marvelous waterfall. This waterfall is obviously also used as a shower. Brrrrrr, it had better not be too chilly! The hosts have left a natural soap for guests to preserve the environment.



Nearby there is a hut made with a single hole that is meant to serve as toilets. Um, I already dread having to go there. Entering the cabin is another big surprise; the place is so calm and peaceful, and it smells of wood with just a hint of smokiness.

There is no electricity and it took me some time to figure out how to light those petrol lights that are hanging all around, but once lit, the place really looks beautiful and cozy.

There is a nice corner by the fireplace to sit and read, and the hosts have left plenty of books and magazines. The kitchen consists of a small pantry, an old wood-stove and a water pump. It appears completely antique but is, in the end, sufficient for my needs. The biggest surprise comes from the bed located in a loft that covers half of this unique room: it's made of hay bales! I am going to have to sleep on hay bales (really hoping there are no bugs or mice living there - yikes!).

After a less than restful night in my hay bed, I'm off to the main street of Willow creek to attend the Big Foot Days Annual Parade and Festival. It's an X-files-ish affair that includes Bigfoot encounters, lawn mower races, and the election of Big Foot's beauty Queen.

Cryptozoological hunters with the popular Animal Planet show 'Finding Bigfoot' stomped around Willow Creek recently, looking for the legendary man-beast in the mountains. This is the location where the renowned Patterson-Gimlin film was shot and the name Bigfoot was actually coined, so it's a pretty big deal among Bigfoot enthusiasts.

The family-friendly event includes games such as bobbing for apples, egg and balloon tosses, sack races, and activities like dunk tanks and eating contests. There is also food and craft booths, an oyster feed, a deep pit BBQ, and a logging contest. There's even a petting zoo and a bike race for the kids. And you won't want to miss the big ice cream social with homemade pies, cakes, and cobblers at the town museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Bigfoot curios.

Honestly, the place is really crazy, but it was so much fun! Maybe my editor doesn't hate me as much as I thought. And, call me crazy, but I swear I saw something that looked suspiciously like Bigfoot lurking in the garden of the cabin when I came back last night.





JUST BECAUSE SHE ISN'T SAYING NO ...

DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S SAYING YES.

sex without consent = sexual assault

DON'T BE **THAT** GUY.

Designer of the Year Krissuliin

An Interview with the [DOTY 2013](#) Winner

Every year, Black Pearl Sims (BPS) hosts its annual Designer of the Year contest, DOTY, gathering some of the very best (and certainly the very bravest!) Sims 2 and Sims 3 decorators out there. Many are repeat contestants, but DOTY also attracts a selection of new entrants who have come to test their skills, to learn, or to seek glory. This year's winner is not only a first-time entrant, she is also relatively new to decorating contests... and a charming person to boot.

*Article by: Jaguwar
Photographs by: Krissuliin*



Q: Please tell us a little about yourself.

A: I'm from a little country called Estonia and I live in its capital city called Tallinn. Tallinn is a small city near Finnish Bay and it is best known for its beautiful Old Town. I've been living in Tallinn since 2005, but originally I'm from a little countryside in Lääne-Viru County. I'm 26 years old, turning 27 next month. I'm not married yet, but I have a wonderful life-partner and we will be celebrating our 7th anniversary this autumn. We don't have children yet, but we hope to have them one day. In real life, I have many other interests besides decorating and building. I also love psychology and everything that is related to people. I have studied social work at Tallinn University and also secretary work in Tallinn School of Economics.

Q: Do you do other creative things? Do you have any design, decorating, or real-life building training?

A: I love to do everything creative! In my childhood, when I was a schoolgirl, I was singing, dancing, writing poems, and acting a lot. I also participated in crafting classes. Now I miss acting and dancing a lot, but I still love to craft, write poems, and sing. I think I got this crafting-bug from my mother and my grandmother because as long as I can remember, I have always seen them knitting or crocheting something. I was 5 years old when my grandmother first taught me how to crochet and knit. Other than that, I don't have any kind of decorating, design, or building training in real-life. But I would love to learn how to renovate old furniture and how to give new life to old things.



Q: How long have you been playing and decorating in The Sims?

A: I have been trying to build sims houses since I played The Sims 2, but these houses were very simple and nothing fancy. Even my decorating skills were, at the time, very basic and I never took any pictures of my builds; which is a little sad, because it would be interesting to see them now.

In 2006, my partner showed me The Sims 2 and from that moment on, I was in love with it. I started to search more information about the game, and soon I found out that there were many talented creators who made wonderful custom content for The Sims 2. Since that day, I have been a major CC-addict. I can't imagine building or decorating without my custom content. For me, it would be quite impossible. But I



haven't been very consistent with playing Sims; sometimes I have had very big pauses in playing it. Now I'm back with The Sims 3 and have been active during the last year.

Q: Why did you decide to enter DOTY? Was this your first Sims contest?

A: This was actually a last minute decision. I saw how you and others were talking about it on the LivingSims Forum, and I actually asked advice from you guys if I should participate or not because I was so uncertain about my decorating skills. I really thought that they were not good enough for the contest, but I decided to be brave and enter no matter what. I have noticed that participating in all kinds of contests is the best way for me to grow and be a better decorator. So my goal, from the beginning



to the end, was to learn and develop my skills. This was my first time in DOTY, and I really didn't expect more than to get a good experience and an opportunity to put my imagination, decorating, and interpretation skills to the test. I gained all that and much, much more!

Q: Was there ever a time in the competition when you thought, "I can't do this, I want to give up?"

A: Yes, almost in every round! There is always some little obstacle that seems to be so huge at that moment; like the floor plan is smaller or bigger than I would like, or I can't find the right kind of furniture, or there is not enough time, or I have troubles with finding inspiration or... actually the list is endless. But it is actually a good thing to have those kinds of

obstacles, because they teach us how to overcome them. Thanks to them, we have to make some things differently than we planned at first, but the outcome in the end could be much better than we ever imagined. So for me, everything has two sides. You just have to pick the better one!

Q: Was there a part of this that you hated having to do? Personally, I hate taking pictures on a deadline because it can be SO time consuming. How about you?

A: Yes, I agree that taking pictures (or decorating in general) on a deadline may be very nerve-racking. But then again, I think we need those deadlines because they help us to focus better. Otherwise, we could stall forever and still think that we are not ready yet. There is

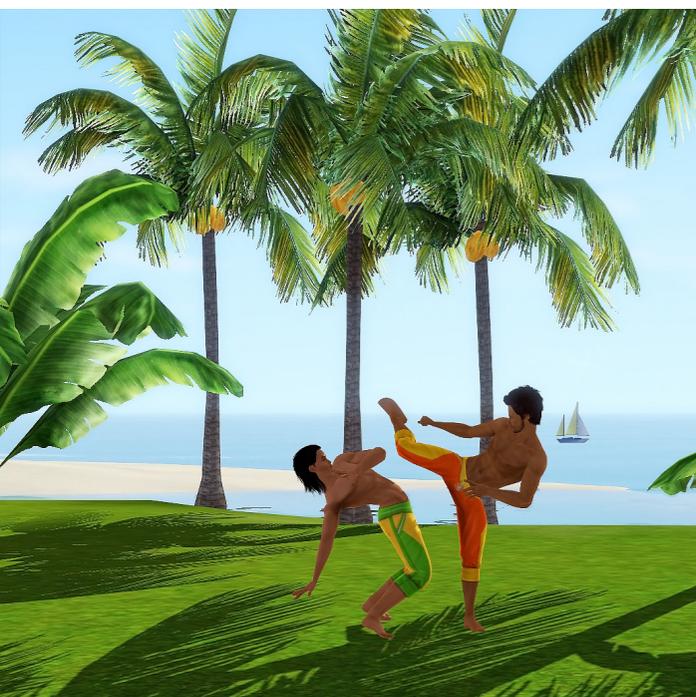


this funny thing with deadlines, you don't have a choice if you want to still be in the competition. It is "do or die," and I think it is also a good way to learn how to work under pressure. That might come in handy someday in real-life.

Q: Speaking of pictures, my favorite one from you was the lavender field in Tuscany, which at least two judges picked as "Judge's Favorite" in the second round. Did you have a favorite?

A: Oh yes! I have lots of favorites. The lavender field picture is one of them. Another one is this African woman carrying barrels. Both pictures were very challenging for me. I had an idea of how I wanted them to look, but I hadn't any clue how to make that happen. I had to be very creative, especially with the African

woman, because there weren't any kind of carrying poses out there. So I had to improvise a lot and finally I used one of those love-couple poses. And then I just had to find the perfect barrels and figure out how to put them into place, decorate the surrounding, and voilà! The picture was done! I also loved most of my Bali entry pictures, especially those that were made with sunrise lighting. Some of my favorite pictures didn't get to the contest because you have to choose pictures that show your overall work the best way, and sometimes the favorite ones are not the best ones for the contest.



Q: What was the hardest aspect of this contest for you?

A: The hardest aspect for me was to make it on time. I'm a very slow decorator and I usually put a lot of effort into my rooms. I can spend hours just picking out the right kind of bed, lounge, or what ever is needed at the moment, and then spend almost half a day picking out the right patterns and clutter. And I almost always recolor all my furniture and clutter, so it is very time-consuming work. But I think it is worth it in the end. I think picking out the "right" things for the room is the hardest one for me, especially if I have a clear vision in my mind. If I don't have exactly that kind of CC in my game, then I just have to think things over or settle for something less perfect; which actually can turn out to be the most perfect choice in the end.



Q: Which round was your favorite?

A: As a theme my favorites were Bali and South Africa because they were very exotic places for me and something I had never done before. The more I researched them, the more I fell in love with them. I hope to visit both places in real-life too someday.

Q: Was there a round where you were sure you weren't moving on? One where you really thought, "Ugh! There's no way my entry competes with everyone else, even though I like it."

A: Yes, every round! Because I saw how wonderful other contestant's entries were and I was so sure that I wouldn't be moving on. I had many favorite designers there and it was so sad and surprising that some of them didn't

move on while I did. Most of the time, I thought that their work was so much better than mine. I was so impressed with how high the skill level of the decorators in this contest was - amazingly talented people! They all deserved to be winners in my eyes.

Q: How did you come to be the winner? When I first met you, you had never even participated in a Sims forum at all. In fact, with only a week to go before the end of the first round you had to make several posts on BPS before you could even enter!

A: I really don't know how it happened! It's as shocking for me as for everyone else! I really didn't expect that at all. As I said before, my goal was to learn and to have a great experience during this contest. Actually, I was so sure that I was out after the second round. And yes,



I was a registered member of BPS since 2011 because of their wonderful downloads, but I was never active in the Forum there. According to their rules, I had to bring up my posts number in order to be able to enter DOTY. I really did post my application only 5 days before my first entry. So it really was at the last minute.

Q: Did you always have a backstory in your head for Mr. & Mrs. Smith, or did that come for the final round?

A: I love to create sims. I have tons of them created in my game, but sadly I haven't had any chance to play with them yet because I like to build and decorate houses for them more than I like to actually play the game. But every time I create one, I look at her or him and they all have very different personalities in my eyes.

With Mr. & Mrs. Smith, I knew from the beginning that they were very sophisticated, successful young people who had achieved a lot in their lives. But the exact living place and occupation came in the end, when I had to build their home. And the first and only place I could imagine them living was in Sweden in a modern Scandinavian home, although I had never built something modern and Scandinavian before. And for that reason, I was a little worried how it would turn out; but I really started to love this decorating style and now it is one of my favorites.

Q: Give us your top 3 decorating/building tips for DOTY next year.

1. Just be yourself. Don't try to be like others. You may take some tips and inspiration from other creator's works, but remember to always add something that represents you and your personality.
2. Don't be afraid to experiment and make some mistakes. Mistakes are our best teachers; and only by experimenting can we really see what we like and what we don't. Try out as many tips and tricks as you can.
3. Don't be afraid to create something different than you are used to. Try out many different decorating styles. Even if at first you don't like this certain style, you might start loving it. By trying out different styles, tips, and tricks you'll expand your imagination and decorating skills remarkably and will be surprised how wonderful your creation can be!

Q: You can't participate in DOTY again as a contestant, but... if you had it to do all over, would you do it again?

A: Yes, of course! No doubt about it! It is a little sad to think that I can't participate as a contestant anymore, but I'm very happy for this experience. And I advise everyone to participate next year because it teaches you a lot and it puts you to the test, but it also gives you a lot. It is very fun and educational at the same time! I learned so many new tips and tricks during this contest that I never knew before. For example, for the first time in my life, I used pose-player and poses for my snapshots. And I decorated in so many interesting and different styles, like with my Balinese, African and Scandinavian entries that were new to me. For me, this contest has opened my eyes in more ways than one. I can honestly say that thanks to this experience, I'm now a better decorator and I have a much better knowledge about places and countries I've never been in real-life.



sometimes
we need
inspiration



ARCHITECTURE | FURNITURE DESIGN | SIMS INSPIRATION

Gardening

Tips & Tricks

We have looked to our community of designers for great gardening tips for you. With the summer heat still looming, we have compiled some tips on how to deal with the hot temperatures. However, we also have a few tips for those lucky enough to enjoy a more temperate climate.

Article by macthekat

Photographs by east108th, Enla, Kementari, Starla, Zhanna & Zveki





Tip 1: east108th

If you live in a hot, dry climate, you know that shadow and shade are more important than a green lawn. Embrace that. Roll with it, and create a shaded outdoor room where you can enjoy the outdoors without being boiled. Instead of having an extended garden, add a little green in pots and make sure to use dry, heat loving plants. Fighting nature is like trying to fight the sea!

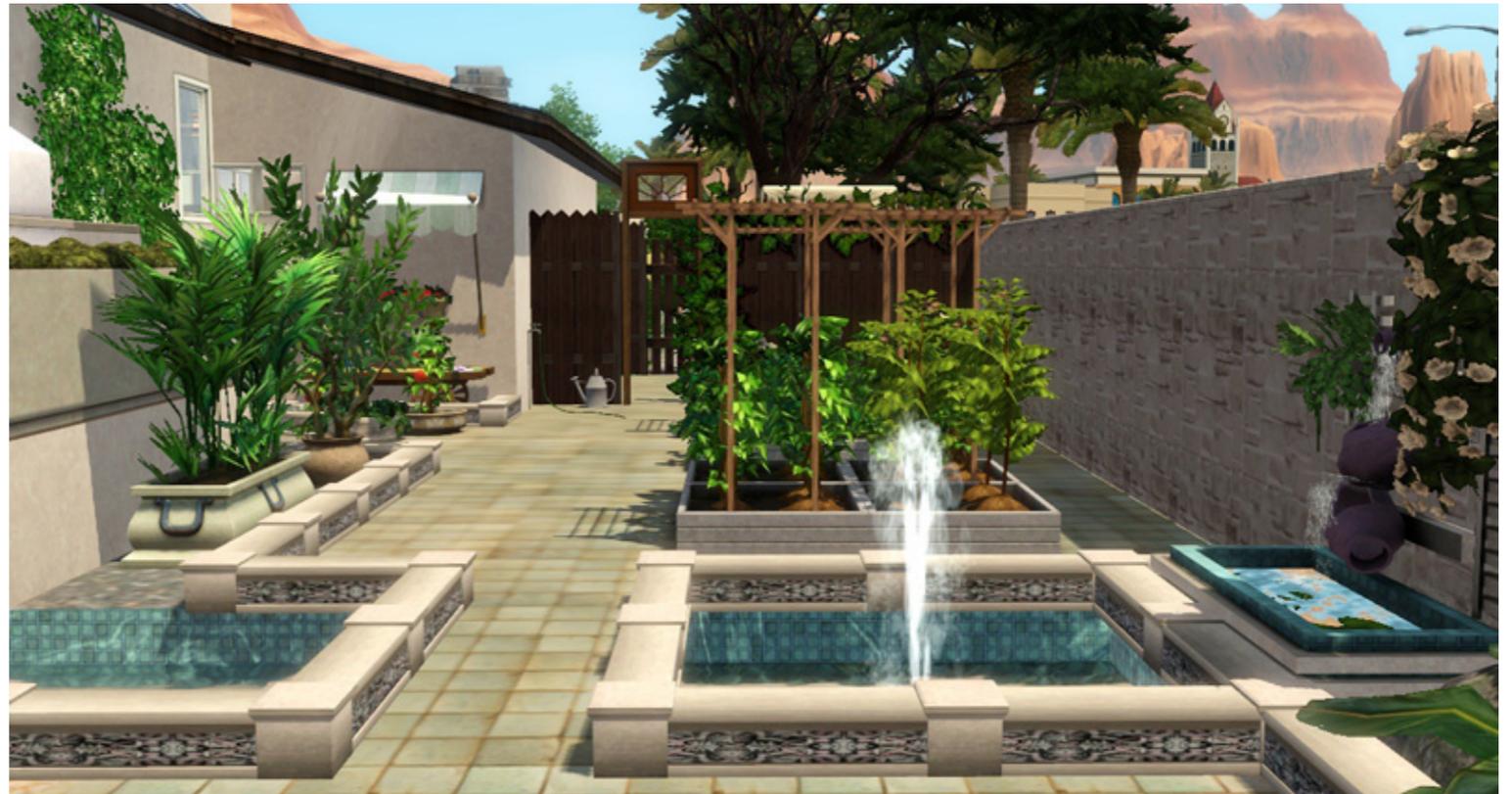
Tip 2: Enla

Just because you don't have a garden does not mean that you can't have nature close by. Make your balcony into a sanctuary with lovely furniture and potted plants. Pick plants that fit your climate. If you are lucky enough to have a view, make the most of it.



Tip 3: Kementari

When in Rome do as the Romans. When in Greece use blue and white! The classic colour choices of a region are classics for a reason - they work with the light in the area and with the local materials. Greek houses are white to reflect the sunlight, so the inside stays cool. They have pools because it is blazing hot during the summer months, but these pools don't just provide a place to cool off. Evaporation off the water helps cool the area around the pool by using up energy, converting water into vapor. Pools can also supply an aesthetic function and make your outdoor area look amazing, as this one does in Kementari's garden.



Tip 4: Starla

A walled garden not only creates privacy inside the garden (allowing you to walk around in your bikini without the neighbours getting an eyeful), it also stores heat throughout the day and releases it after the sun sets. This allows you to grow plants from warmer climates. The small pools in Starla's garden have the same effects as the Greek pools and make the garden more humid and pleasant to be in than the surrounding area. They also provide visual interest and let the local wildlife, such as birds, have a place to find clean water to drink from.



Tip 5: Zhanna

Not all gardens have to be well controlled areas. A wild garden can also be amazingly beautiful. Introducing local flowers by spreading seeds out can give you an astonishing variety of flora, creating a flowering meadow in your backyard.

Tip 6: Zveki

Simple solutions are often the most effective. Zveki once again shows us how little effort it takes to create a jaw-dropping garden dining area. He found a spot with some shade, set out the table and chairs and didn't let himself fuss about it. With a backdrop of amazing scenery and a simple fence, I couldn't wish for anything more.





Tip 7: east108th

Architecture is not limited to houses. When creating a small garden, you can create a lot of space by having different levels in your garden and using the same architectural tricks as you would inside your house. Make your garden more functional by making it interesting at night as well; hang some lights, have places for your family and guests to sit and enjoy themselves. A little green goes a long way in a small space. In hot, dry climates, drop the leafy trees and consider planting native trees instead.

Tip 8: Kementari

If you are lucky enough to be able to have a lush garden; make the most of it, and place your seating in the middle of all the green. Create a little protected pocket using shrubs and bushes around the area, which shields it from the wind so you can enjoy afternoon tea without the napkins flowing all over the place. Add a fire pit, so you can enjoy the garden in the cool, dark evenings as well.





House²House

There are words. And then there are magical words. My old classmate Sonya has 3 magical words. She hears them every day around 6 PM. I used to hear stories about Nana, Sonya's grandmother; and by those stories, I always thought she was some kind of a superhero. Guess what? It turns out she is.

Article & photographs by moxxa



Years have passed since I last saw Sonya. She is a successful contractor – she made it. We arranged to meet at Nana’s house where Sonya lives now.

“I still have that apartment in the city,” Sonya explained as we sat down to catch up. “I decided to move in with Nana after she broke her hip. Look, she is 90 years old and has been taking care of me my whole life. It’s time to reverse the roles. Nana practically raised me - you know that. While my parents were working, Nana was the one who cooked for me, made sure I did my homework and grounded me when I, or should I say we, got into trouble.” I exchanged an impish grin with my old chum, remembering some of our exploits.

The exterior of Nana’s house looks just like it’s from a book. It’s a mixture of Victorian and a shabby style with climbing ivy around the house adding the perfect touch. The house is surrounded by plants, so the combination of the green plants, grey siding and dark, shingled roof make it that much more inviting.

So the tour began. You wouldn’t believe my surprise when I saw that the interiors do not match the grey from the exteriors. “I took care of that,” Sonya said emphatically. “Everyone needs some color in their lives. Thank goodness I happen to love strong colors. Every time I enter those front doors, I feel like I am entering a tropical getaway. Still enjoying it,” Sonya said with a smile.

The living room is a wonderfully designed, eclectic room with lots of colors, patterns and fabrics. Even though it might look it’s “all over the place,” the room is actually very well designed. You have the sitting area, although not a very formal one, and we love the idea of using the old TV as an end table for the new TV.

“Oh, that one there is the first TV in the county. My late husband bought it off some German fella back in the 1950s,” Nana shouted from the kitchen. She was busy making her famous apple mint pie for dessert, a treat I didn’t want to miss out on.

We are going to leave Nana in the kitchen – she does not like being interrupted in there. “No, no, we are not going in there while she is



cooking..." Sonya said with a dire look on her face as we passed the kitchen. "Nana has thrown me out of the kitchen too many times. I learned my lesson. Let's go upstairs instead."

I believe that only Sonya can get away with a metal, industrial staircase in this kind of shabby and inviting environment. She saw the disbelief in my eyes and explained, "I pick metal over decomposing wood. Any time."

Makes sense. And it visually works too. What I did not expect was a huge office in the open space upstairs. "Being a contractor, I get calls from the workers or need to plan the layout of a house we are working on. Sometimes inspiration comes in the middle of the night, so I need a place to work at home too."

"But, Nana insisted she have her own workspace as well," Sonya added with a smile. "She brought her old typewriter. And by the look of it, it was used by Christopher Sholes, the inventor of the typewriter himself. She told me she

needed to write letters to her girlfriends. Those letters are mostly gossip though. Just don't tell her I told you," she added with a wink.

Our next stop is the master bedroom, a lovely, big room with more tropical colors on the wall. "This used to be Nana's room. When she broke her hip a few years back, it started to become difficult for her to go up and down the stairs every day, so we switched. She took the little guest bedroom downstairs."

"Nana spends most of her days in the kitchen and out on the porch anyways," Sonya confided. "She loves that porch. Not because of the fresh air or the restored swing though. It's because she has the best view of the neighbours there - those gossipy letters practically write themselves!" I chuckled along with Sonya.

"It is hilarious to watch her out with her little notebook, writing what happened so she won't forget. I swear, sometimes I feel like I'm





living with a teenager. A teenager that can cook, that is."

While heading to the kitchen, we quickly took a look at Nana's room. It had a lovely coastal feel to it. Small, but really pretty. "Yeah, it has soul. Just like Nana," Sonya proudly said. We left the room quickly before Nana saw us snooping there. That woman loves her privacy.

The dining room was the room that left me in awe. It might be the smallest room in the house, but it's gorgeous. The green walls, old end table, plants and fish paintings on the walls tie together with an eclectic flair— just the way

a quirky dining room should look. Sonya did manage to get the green light from Nana and bought some designer chairs to put her own, unique stamp on the room.

Now, the kitchen is Nana's kingdom. Pots, pans, plates are everywhere, and herbs grace the window sill planted in old bean and corn cans. That is what a vintage kitchen is supposed to look like. "I know people use the phrase mostly for bedrooms, but I disagree," Sonya said thoughtfully. "This kitchen... this is where the magic happens." And I could hear Nana's shy chuckle in the background.



We headed out for one last look at the backyard before I left. Sonya saw the tablet on the floor by the lounge chair, just shook her head and said "Oh, not again! Can you believe a 90 year old woman shares her recipes online? Every other grandmother plays bridge with her friends or knits. But, my Nana plays the new tablet app, "Solitaire with Friends." You gotta love her."

And then I heard it. "Get your behinds to them designer chairs," Nana shouted. "Dinner is ready!" "See?" Sonya whispered in my ear. "Magic!"





the Craftsman Set

BY BUGGYBOOZ



Interview: FraniJo

Her pictures always steal my attention. Is it the style, picture angles, bold colors, or smart editing? I have no idea, but I will recognize her signature anytime I see it. Join us, have a peek at the tropical paradise she built just for LivingSims and find out more about FraniJo, one of the nicest simmers out there.

*Article by FraniJo and moxxa
Photographs by FraniJo*



Can you tell us something about yourself?

Sure! Well, I'm a 28-year-old mother of two and a devoted Navy wife. I've been playing The Sims since the very beginning! It's only been the last couple of years though that I have found myself being more active within the community. Decorating is obviously my favorite aspect of the game, but I do enjoy playing my legacy as well. Besides playing The Sims, I enjoy reading and watching crime or history shows.

How long have you been playing Sims games? Which one did you like the most?

I have been playing since The Sims first came out in 2000, and I was addicted immediately! I have played every installation and loved something different about them all, but I would have to say that without a doubt TS3 is, by far, the best in my opinion.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

Everywhere! I'll often look through design blogs or search for pictures and pull inspiration from something specific that I see. And, of course, other simmers! The creativity in this community never ceases to astound me and I really look up to all those people who are able to think outside of the box. Also, as cheesy as it may sound, the people in my life. I might design a certain room with my kids in mind, or maybe something I know my mom would like.

Do you have a favorite theme or style that you like to use in your houses?

I don't think I have a style. If I do, then I'm not sure what I would call it. I definitely prefer my houses to feel more like a home. When people view them, I want them to get that warm and inviting feeling. I often think to myself, would I want to live here? Would I think this is a comfortable home? What I usually do is pick one item that I really want to use or have in a particular room and build completely off of that.





So I'm not always sure what theme the house is going to take on.

What is your favorite color to bring into your rooms, and why?

Haha! Well if it wasn't obvious from my pictures, it's blues and greens! I feel like they work for just about everything. They can be used for a range of homes: a beach home, a country home, or a modern home all depending on the shades you use. I just think that they are the most versatile colors.

What is the first room you tend to when designing a house?

I would say I tend to go straight for the kitchen. Usually, the kitchen determines the style I'll end up going with for the rest of the home. Plus, it's my favorite room to decorate!

Is there one creator's CC you couldn't live without?

Really? What a difficult question! But, if I absolutely had to say, I'd have to choose two: Sarah from Awesims for all my furniture and Sandy from ATS for all my clutter. I don't think any of my houses haven't had at least a few items from each of them!

Do you have any tips you'd like to share with our readers?

Don't be afraid to do something different and go out of your comfort zone. You might be surprised with what styles you end up liking! Try switching it up and doing something you might hate just to be more well-rounded.



Tell us something about the ideas you had while decorating the house you built for this issue. Any background story to it?

As soon as I found out the issue was summer/outdoor themed, I knew that not only did I need a unique outdoor area, but I'd also be decorating the whole house... so how could I bring the outdoors in? I went on the search for a perfect house plan, found it and then totally changed it. That's the fun part, making it your own.

I knew right away that I wanted to have lots of windows and plants inside and I loved the idea of the kitchen opening up to the open outdoor dining area. With the view of the ocean, I knew an infinity pool would look perfect, but then I quickly ran out of room for a garden and came up with idea of a "rooftop garden" on top the garage.

As for the color scheme, summer makes me think of really bright and fun colors. Honestly, all I could think of was the colors of a beach ball and that's how it all came together!

I will be the first to admit that building and landscaping are not necessarily my forte' (my strengths are more in interior decorating), but I'm really happy with how this house turned out and I hope everyone else likes the fun theme as well!

LivingSims Around the World

Get to know your LivingSims staff!

Photographs by Ankuuh

Did you ever wonder where the LivingSims staff are from? We are scattered on four continents, seven different countries - and only one language. English. Admit you thought of Simlish first...

Jaguwar

What is your country/state? USA, Georgia
What is your favorite design style? Modern-contemporary
CC or no CC? Are you kidding? CC! Lots and lots of CC! But I do enjoy the occasional no cc-build, too.
Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3
What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? Interior Design. I find myself "cheating" with architecture and just converting real-life plans.
What is your go-to color in design? I don't really have a particular color, though if something's red I'm likely to leave it red because that's my favorite color. I do have a tendency towards bold, saturated colors, though: deep browns, burnt orange, that sort of thing.

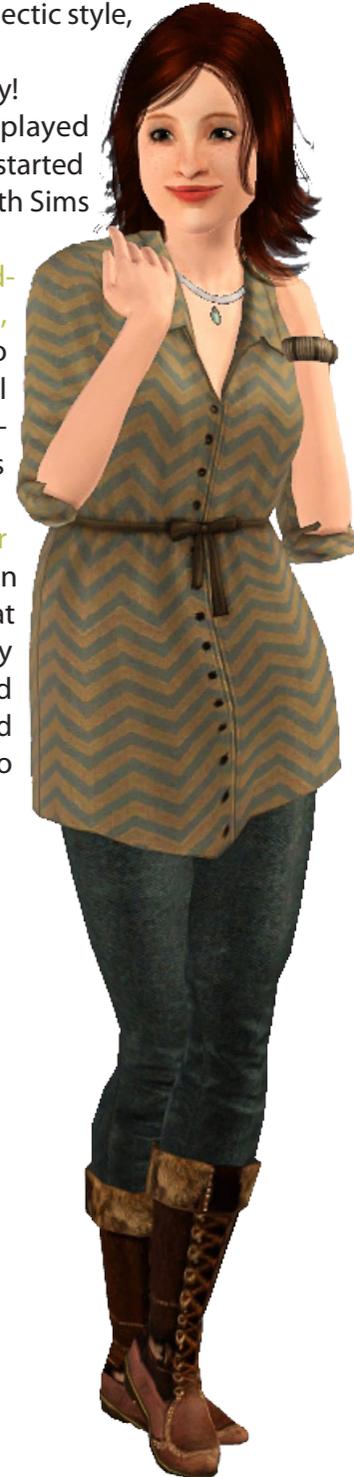


mrmis

What is your country/state? USA, Illinois
What is your favorite design style? I am obsessed with mid-century modern right now.
CC or no CC? I don't overuse CC anyway, but I occasionally build CC-free.
Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3
What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? Architecture
What is your go-to color in design? I try to mix it up but I tend to return to warm colors; yellows through reds, especially their darker tints.

kitkat

What is your country/state? USA, Florida
What is your favorite design style? That's a tough one... I like all kinds of styles, but I tend to design in a modern-ish/eclectic style, given the choice.
CC or no CC? CC all the way!
Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims I played Sims2 a bit, but I really got started building and designing with Sims 3.
What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? I used to adore landscaping above all else, but I really enjoy interior design now as well. It's a toss-up.
What is your go-to color in design? I adore celadon green for some reason; that was even the color of my bridesmaids' dresses and accents in my wedding. And I find myself working it in to many of my designs.



macthekat

What is your country/state? Denmark
What is your favorite design style? Minimalistic modern

CC or no CC? Both, though right now I am trying to limit my CC to a bare minimum, so I only have CC in my game from a few great creators.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? I love building, so architecture.

What is your go-to color in design? Lime green



Kementari

What is your country/state? USA, Texas
What is your favorite design style? That is so hard to pinpoint! I definitely have one, but everyone seems to have a hard time giving it a name. Rustic Luxe? Country Chic? Basically I like a rustic contemporary look with a vintage/country feel to it.

CC or no CC? If it's for a challenge then I use CC. If it's for something I am sharing, then no CC.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? It would definitely be interior design, but I do have a soft spot for landscaping too.

What is your go-to color in design? Natural/Earth tones, love them all.



oumamea

What is your country/state/City? South Africa, Gauteng, Pretoria

What is your favorite design style? I don't really have a favorite, but I like modern minimalistic and traditional/contemporary.

CC or no CC? I am lost without CC.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? I would say interior design, but I like architecture too.

What is your go-to color in design? Earthy tones, but I also love blues, turquoise, and pink.



moxxa

What is your country/state? Croatia

What is your favorite design style? Modern/Contemporary
CC or no CC? CC, and lots of it.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 2

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? Interior design

What is your go-to color in design? Red!



Eronoel

What is your country/state? USA, Minnesota

What is your favorite design style? Eclectic

CC or no CC? Lots and lots (too much?) CC.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3 (but played Sims 2 too).

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? Interior design

What is your go-to color in design? White - it matches everything and is so versatile.



Ankuuh

What is your country/state? The Netherlands

What is your favorite design style? Eclectic (I'm all over the place really)

CC or no CC? CC!! LOTS of it... yeah, I'm addicted.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? Interior design, for sure. I do sometimes build, but I have nightmares about landscaping.

What is your go-to color in design? Petrol blue and brown



Ballarose

What is your country/state? Canada, Ontario

What is your favorite design style? My style would best be described as eclectic, though I often end up with a Mexican theme. I am drawn to adobe and clay colors accented with bright Caribbean shades of rich, deep yellows, indigos and the colors of a sunset.

CC or no CC? CC!! Some CC.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? Definitely interior design. I struggle with the rest.

What is your go-to color in design? Any of the colors found in a Caribbean sunset



cassiopeia

What is your country/state? Australia, Tasmania

What is your favorite design style? Modern, eclectic, maybe a dash of shabby chic. A little bit of everything, really.

CC or no CC? I am a huge CC addict, but I also use in-game stuff.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3.

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? I really

enjoy landscaping, and even though I enjoy interior design, I don't think that's where my skills lie in this game.

What is your go-to color in design? When I'm stumped for ideas, I will always turn to neutral/warm colours -hues of brown and perhaps green. I think a neutral palette is extremely versatile, and it fits many styles.



littlecat

What is your country/state? USA, Florida

What is your favorite design style? Eclectic

CC or no CC? Definitely CC!

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? I love interior design!

What is your go-to color in design? I've noticed I use a lot of blues and reds.



LivingSims Around the World • 120

GigaRevival

What is your country/state? USA, Arizona

What is your favorite design style? Industrial, Grunge, Eclectic

CC or no CC? I generally decorate with CC, but I do love those challenging CC-free sessions as well.

Sims 2 or Sims 3? Sims 3

What is your favorite - landscaping, interior design, or architecture? Interior design, hands down.

What is your go-to color in design? I generally prefer darker hues, such as deep browns, reds, purples, and blues, but I have been experimenting (and loving) using whites, yellows, and pinks recently.



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OUTDOOR FINDS

Summertime

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Fish are jumping, and the cotton is high... Gershwin's jazz aria, Summertime, is full of the imagery of sultry summer days and nights. We've gathered these great outdoor finds that will help you create the perfect summertime scene in your game.



Foret Jars and Cart
bluecoco @ TSR



Cacti Set 2t3
porkypine @ MTS



Bird Garden Set
LilyoftheValley @ TSR



OUTDOOR FINDS

Bali Outdoor Fountain
Abuk0



In The Garden
ExoticElements



Jardin Sofa and Pillows
SimsPhantasia



BBQ Set
annflower1



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KEEP AN EYE ON THE KIDS





PENSION XENIAS

A Summer Trip to Mykonos

I've been wanting to visit a pension hotel for years - one of those smaller, privately owned establishments with some local ambiance. When my best friend recommended the Pension Xenias on Mykonos to me, I was thrilled. With its signature architecture and bustling night life, Mykonos has become a must-see destination for travelers to the Mediterranean. The Xenias turned out to be one of those rare jewels that you must experience for yourself.

*Article by kitkat
Photographs by kementari*



When I stepped off the Blue Star ferry that I had boarded in Pireaus harbor in Athens, the island of Mykonos greeted me with its stunning, sparkling turquoise waters and glimpses of its signature crisp, whitewashed buildings. Mykonos is one of the most traveled of the Cyclades, the small cluster of islands in the Aegean, and is considered to be one of the pearls of the Greek Isles. I couldn't help but agree with this assessment.

Immediately delighted with my choice to visit the tiny island, I began searching the small crowd at the dock for my driver. Finally spotting the small hand-lettered sign with my last name on it, I made my way toward the handsome, middle-aged man holding it.

"I'm Calix Lambros," he greeted me with a bright smile. Surprised but delighted, I shook his hand and introduced myself. I hadn't expected

to be picked up by the owner himself, but Calix explained that in a small pension hotel like the Xenias, the owners often wear many hats.

As we headed toward the car, Calix kept up a steady description of all of the many delights Mykonos has to offer. I could only nod and smile in response, anticipating the many days of exploration and relaxation that awaited me on this tiny paradise.

The car wended its way along narrow streets, which eventually gave way to a larger roadway that hugged the coast as we left the bustling Old Town area for Platis Gialos, a slightly less developed part of the island.

About ten minutes later, Calix turned the car down an access road angling closer to the sea and toward our destination - Pension Xenias, a



small boutique accommodation owned by Calix and his wife Kynthia.

A stunning white building in keeping with the island's characteristic architecture, including many rounded window and door arches and small staircases all in a brilliant white finish, soon came into view. Calix parked the car in the small entryway, efficiently unloaded my suitcase and ushered me into the small cluster of rooms that served as offices for the Xenias. A stunning, tanned woman with salt-and-pepper hair rose from her desk and kissed me on both cheeks, introducing herself as Kynthia, Calix's wife and co-owner of the hotel.

"Kalos Irthes," she said with feeling. "Welcome to Xenias. We are so pleased to have you stay with us."

I returned her broad smile and sat in the chair she had pulled up for me. Calix took that opportunity to excuse himself with a bow, having handed me over to Kynthia's capable hands. The check-in process was quickly dispensed with, and Kynthia was soon leading me out of the offices and onto a tour of the pension.



"You understand that breakfast and lunch will be included with your stay?" she inquired, looking pleased when I nodded my assent. "You can have those delivered to your room for private dining, or you can dine here, poolside," she explained, gesturing toward the cabanas situated around the luxurious pool. The view from the pool deck was of the nearby deep blue waters of the Aegean, a dazzling sight.

"And the bar at the pool is open from noon 'til ten. If there's no bartender there, just press the bell. There's always someone on duty during that time."

I smiled in anticipation, already picturing spending one of my days on the isle relaxing by the pool with a glass of retsina, the flavorful, local Greek white wine just a request away. Kynthia then led me up one of the small flights of stairs to a landing and opened the door to my guest room.

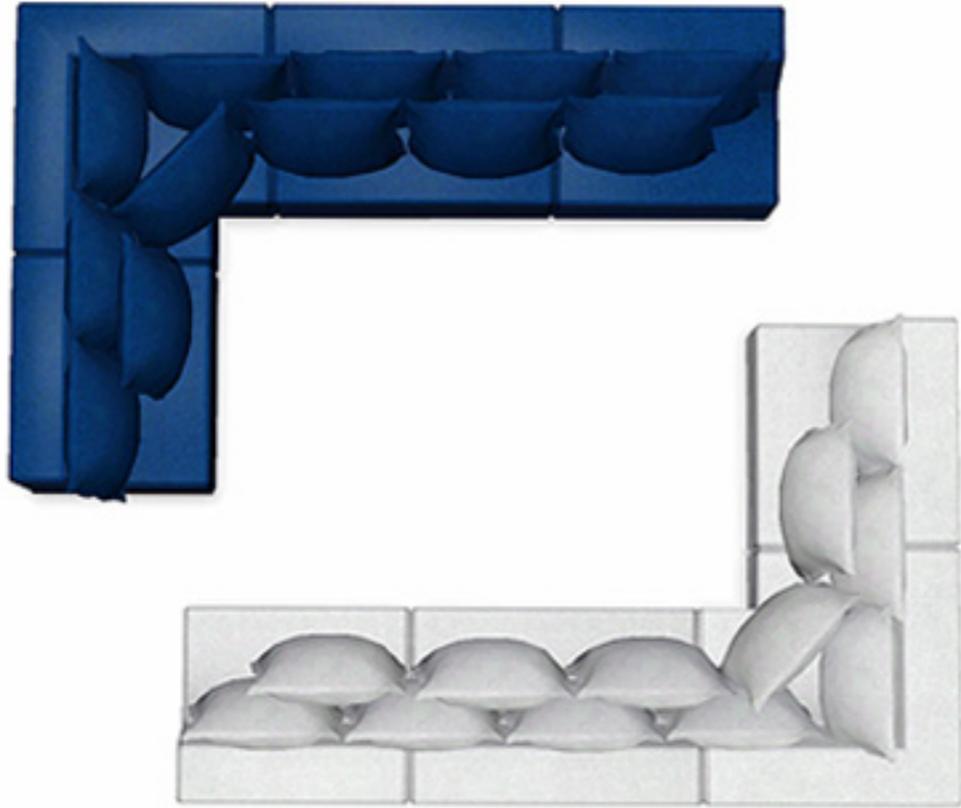
The room was decorated in the same white and blue of the exterior of the hotel. In the expansive guest suite, this color scheme provided a calm sanctuary, an invitation to rest and relax. Warm wood tones on the veranda flooring, and the exposed ceiling beams in the room provided a counterpoint to the crisp

linens and bright finishes. Having delivered me to my room, Kynthia discretely excused herself with assurances that I should dial her direct line should I need anything.

Already beginning to relax, I kicked off my shoes and collapsed onto one of the chaises on my private landing, luxuriating in the privacy and comfort. I could just glimpse the sparkling azure sea beyond the balcony wall beckoning me, and I couldn't wait to begin my Mykonos adventure.



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Perfect Palette

Article by kitkat & mrmiss

Photographs by kitkat, mrmiss, Enla, Winterleaf, Starla & Zingaro

Each month, LivingSims awards the title of Photographer of the Month to one of our amazing forum contributors. Their pictures always wow us and usually beat out the competition based on their creative use of space and color. As you can see in these snappy photos, your palette may occasionally be dominated by neutrals, but as our Photographer of the Month selections show, that can sometimes lead to a stunning result. With the judicious use of bright accent colors you can end up with an even stronger overall effect. Let's see how it's done by the experts.

Plum and honey by Enla

#DCB46C



Sunflower

#9F8C88



Spring Plum

#F4EEE0



Cottonwood Cream

#BABAB0



Frost

#2E3C3D



Palisades Park



In Enla's original photo, the teal of the chaise lounge is front and center in the color scheme. Our translation of the palette pulls a shade of purple from the background, which takes the stage in this charming, traditional bedroom. Spring Plum creates the perfect backdrop for bed linens and a side chair in a cheery Sunflower yellow. These shades complement each other on the color wheel and provide for a harmonious color story.



Autumn leaves by Winterleaf

#A68B5B



Barley Corn

#61835E



Glade Green

#706238



Yellow Metal

#433E37



Armadillo

#40291D



Cork



In Winterleaf's original, a preponderance of neutral colors combine to create a calming effect, punctuated by the occasional punch of green. That feeling is recreated in this lavish apartment suite with a killer view. Using Barley Corn as a base paint and wood color and the similar Yellow Metal as a trim color helps bring all parts of the room together, while Armadillo on the wainscoting and Cork under the counters help ground everything. Glade Green is the color that gives it all pop and sets off the whimsical features.



Cobalt symphony by Starla

#F6E1B4



Wheat

#6F585E



Dim Gray

#A88C76



Rosy Brown

#FFFBED



Floral White

#7662C1



Slate Blue



Starla's picture offers the promise of a warm retreat on a cold winter's night. A retreat of a different kind is offered in this dream bathroom; Wheat is used as the main fixture color while Floral White lightens up the trim and Rosy Brown covers the doors to keep them from taking over visually. The walls are dominated by a purplish Dim Gray and a bright Slate Blue that gives the relaxing atmosphere you want in a bathroom.



Bold blues by Zingaro

#579FAB



Cadet Blue

#9A1411



Dark Red

#987650



Sienna

#474A5D



Dark Slate Blue

#D7D8DD



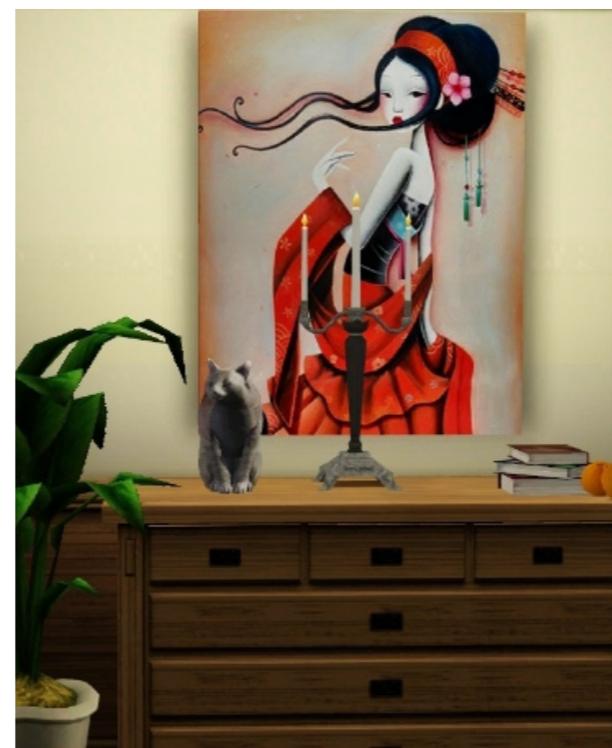
Gainsboro



Zingaro's bath charmed us with its great use of texture and color. In this remake of the color scheme, a vibrant teal green emerges from the shadows and isn't afraid to shine. To counteract this striking hue, a deep, almost neutral blue is used on the wallpaper and is carried through the throw-rug. Zingaro's room shows us that switching an accent color with a base color can have a similarly impactful effect when handled deftly.









WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR
INTO THE FUTURE
WHY NOT GO BACK IN TIME IN YOUR
VERY OWN HISTORICAL WORLD?



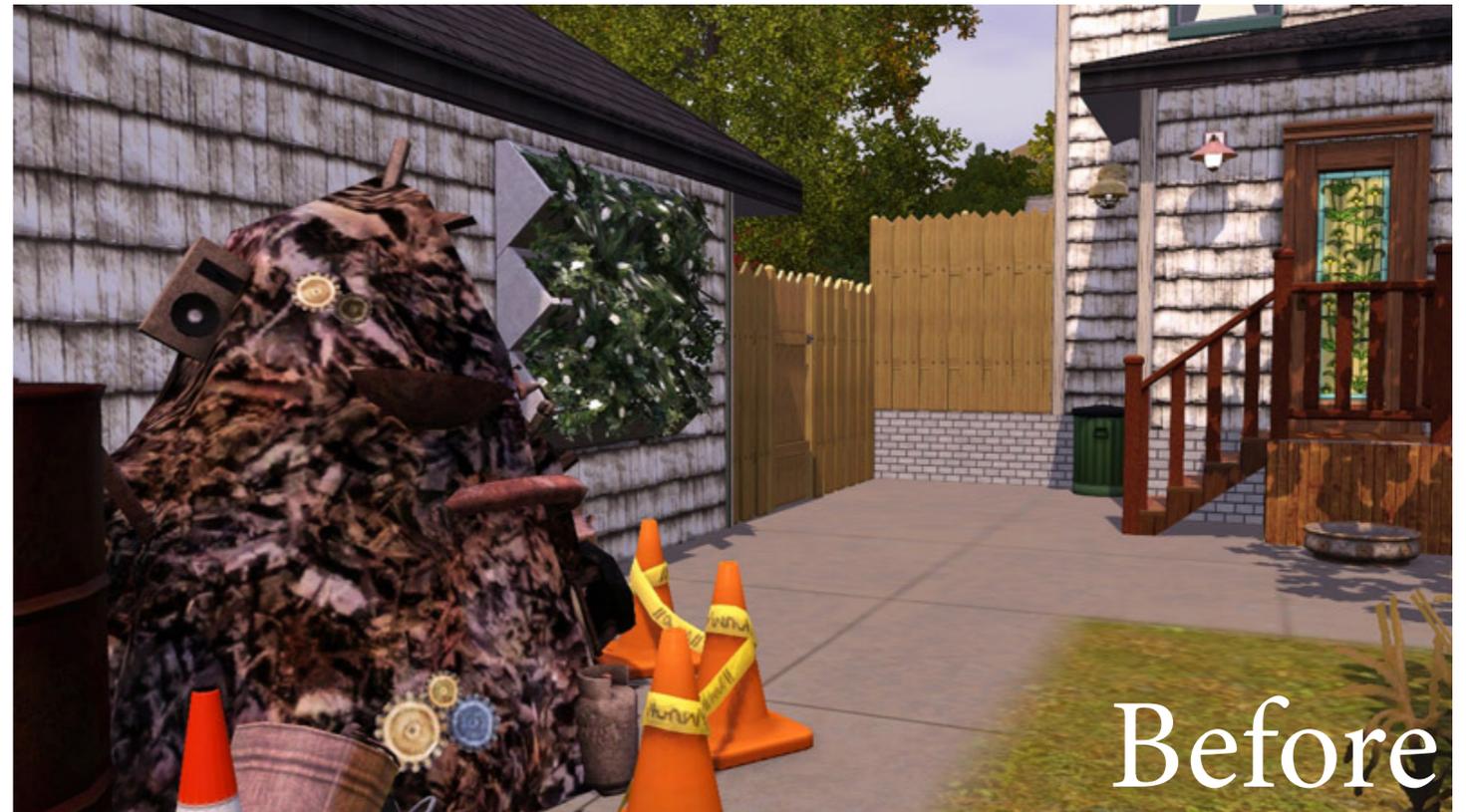
A tropical backyard scene featuring a swimming pool with a stone deck, surrounded by palm trees, tropical plants, and a view of the ocean. The pool has a wooden lounge chair and a small table. The deck is paved with stone tiles. In the background, there are more palm trees and a small island in the water.

Yard Crashers

A Pool with a View

In this installment of Yard Crashers, our designers take on a rundown house whose backyard has seen better days. They bring to life breathtaking yard makeovers with pools as the central focus that you'll truly have to see to believe.

*Article by eronoel & mrmiss
Photographs by Ankuuh, macthekat,
moxxa, eronoel, Kementari & mrmiss*



Ankuuh:

With dark stone and cool, aqua shades, Ankuuh's backyard renovation provides a stylish and modern place to enjoy the summer. Her pool with heat absorbing brown plaster is large enough for doing laps, while still not overwhelming the yard. The natural, brown textures of the rock, wood and wicker are a beautiful contrast to the teal tiles, blue silk pillows, and blue-gray sofa.

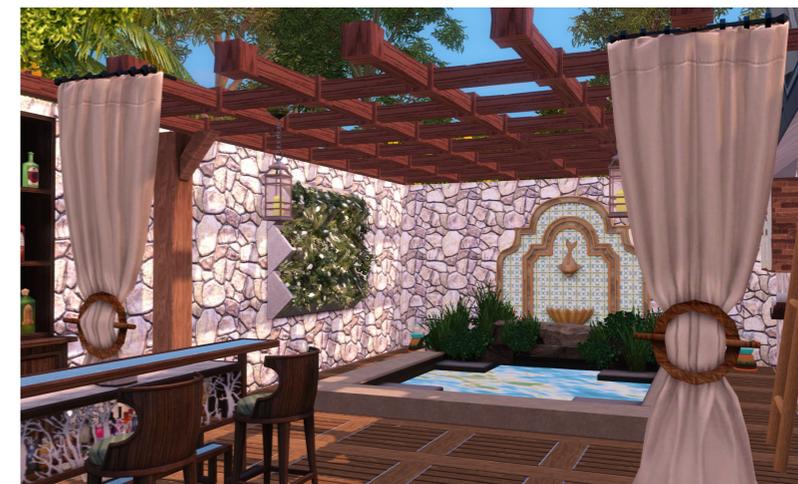
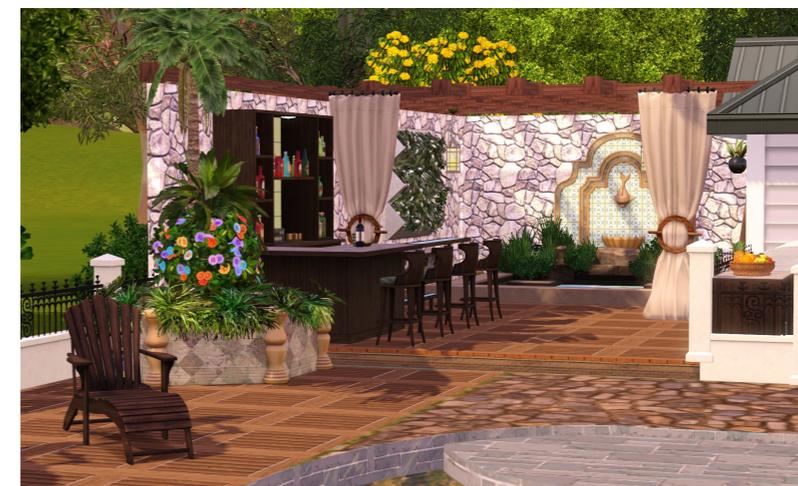
Ankuuh uses small punches of color to highlight specific areas of the yard, such as the small multicolored tiles on the stairs, without overwhelming the eye. Finally, she maintains a balance between control and chaos by incorporating both neatly trimmed green shrubs and lively, colorful tropical plants.



Eronoel:

Eronoel's renovation is inspired by the Caribbean with its traditional whitewash siding, metal roofing and Spanish metalwork. To offset the white, she uses dark woods for the furniture, flooring, and pergola.

The garage is transformed into a guest house with access to the pool area and Eronoel created several sitting areas, including a wet bar, making the back yard ideal for social gatherings. A spa is tucked back with high fences and curtains to provide a quiet, private place to relax. The pool, lined with gray stone, is designed with the shape of a small pond in mind. Finally, Eronoel adds tropical plants and palm trees to transform the backyard into a small oasis.



Kementari:

Kementari's backyard renovation is an ode to a naturalistic modern style. To achieve this feel, Kementari embraces the multiple textures and colors of nature – from the rich, dark wooden deck that wraps around the blue pool to the gray cobble stones that weave a path through the garden.

A seating area with two fire pits provides the ideal place to enjoy a cozy evening before retiring to the garage-turned-guest house. The guest house embodies a tropical feel with wrought iron furniture and white fabric. The modern aspects of the build, the straight lines and simple design, help provide a tranquil feel to this backyard paradise.



Macthekat:

Macthekat's makeover is a family-friendly take on the tropical coastal style. The focal point of the yard is a classic blue kidney-shaped pool with a slide. From there, macthekat has included a lush green lawn to play on, as well as a special shade-covered play area.

The children's additions to the backyard add whimsy to the topical feel and include an elephant slide and a sea serpent play sculpture. A small patio area provides a place for adults to relax under the shade of an umbrella and reinforces the coastal theme by using a re-purposed boat bookcase. Macthekat's back yard provides a perfect demonstration of how to incorporate both style and utility into home renovations.



Moxxa:

Moxxa reinvented the backyard with a modern take on a traditional coastal theme in mind. To emphasize the coast, she uses blue siding and white trim for the garage and house, along with sea-net inspired garden edging. The majority of the space is taken up by a concrete deck and a large, inviting blue pool.

The garden, which is around the edges of the yard, consists of mostly shrubs and creates a sea of green against the cool blue of the pool and the gray concrete fence. Moxxa has also included a modern entertaining area, which uses natural, unprocessed woods, weaves, and fabrics to create an inviting space.

The pergola can be adjusted to provide varying levels of shade with the white draped fabric. Small fairy lights, candles, and torches bring the yard to life after the sun goes down and make Moxxa's backyard the perfect place for evening entertaining.



mrmiss:

Mrmis fuses Asian with a hint of mid-century modern to create the serenity that his clients were looking for. The garage gets a complete transformation into a groovy little pool house complete with facilities and entertainment.

A high fence affords lots of privacy for a day in the brightly-colored pool or a night in the hot tub, while a patch of newly sown grass offers enough room for a game of bocce ball or croquet. A border of greenery helps soften the overall effect, and a lover's bench provides a place to take it all in. Wrap it up with an enlarged deck for grilling, a hidden apple orchard, and a place to stash the family bikes, and you have the dream yard any family would love to have.

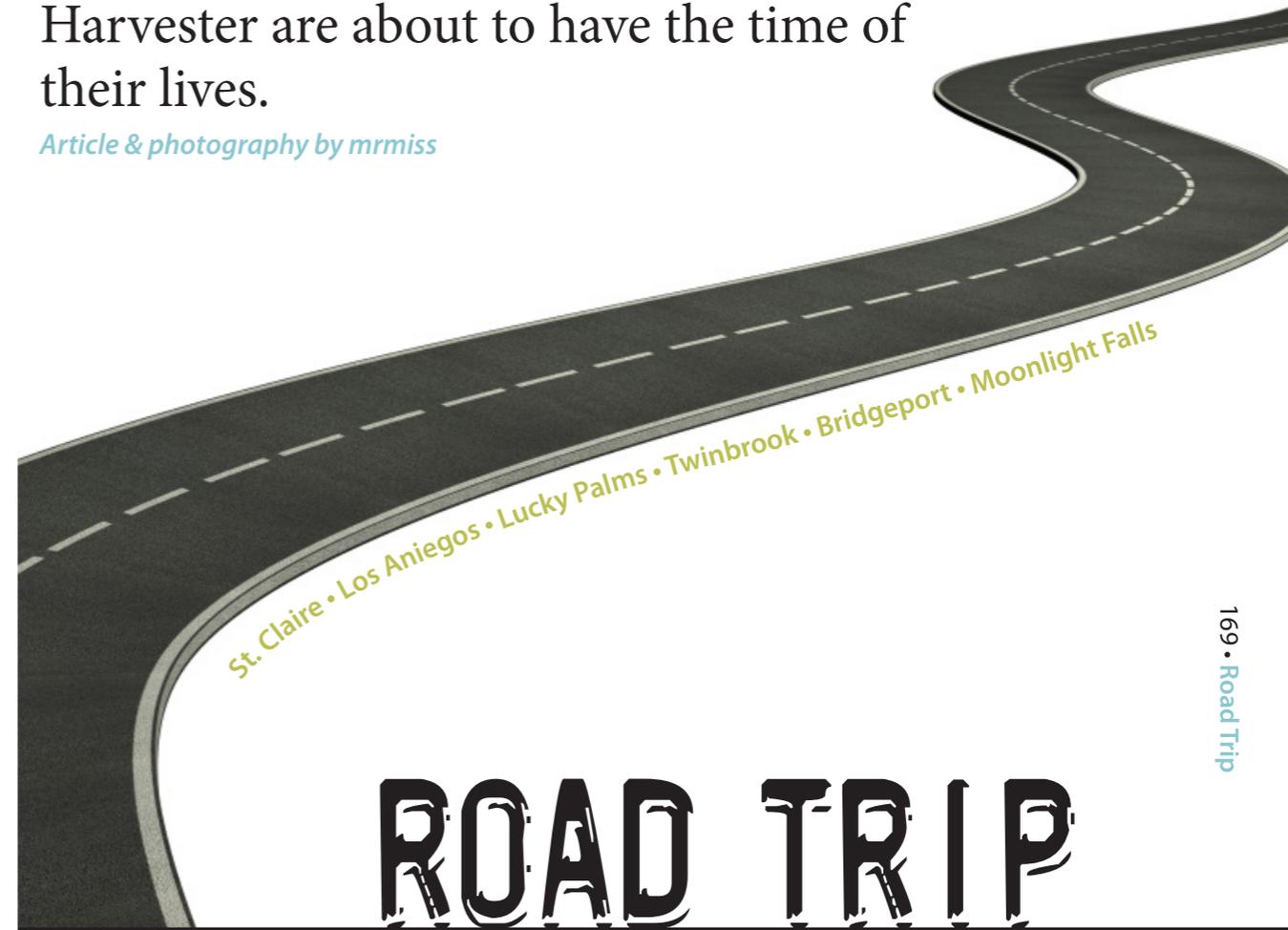


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There is nothing that says American summer like a road trip, especially when it is completely unplanned. Eric and Julianna Harvester are about to have the time of their lives.

Article & photography by mrmiss



My name is Eric Harvester; my twin sister Julianna and I were looking forward to our last summer before heading off to University in the fall until our mother received news that her family was going to have a reunion and we were expected to attend. We arrived at the Packard Estate, a beautiful two-story 1920s Prairie style home in St. Claire, and were quickly taken to the den for a surprise announcement from our grandfather. He said that, while he was still in good health, he wanted to give out what he called early inheritance. At that point, he

handed the floor over to his lawyer. When the lawyer called Julianna and my names, we were on pins and needles. It turns out that our grandfather had given us a car, a fully-restored 1960 Corvette convertible, and a handsome sum of cash. We were stunned to say the least.

The next day it was decided that the only way to easily get the car home was to drive it. We chose to use the cash to take in some of America on the way home and with a quick call to our insurance agent, we were on our way. Road trip!

St. Claire

Saint Claire is a small city in the Pacific northwest that has a very laid back feel. We were up early on an overcast day so that we could get a feel for the town before we hit the road. St. Claire is best known for an active equestrian community, the stunning hills that surround the city, and a small town feel that belies the city's actual size. Must See: Tapas and a cup of the world-famous coffee at Crier Cafe.



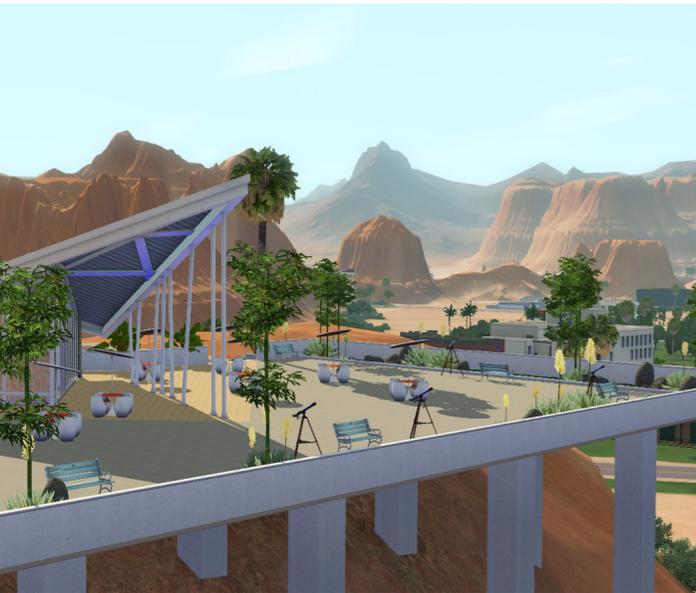
Los Aniegos

We next headed to the sun and sand of Southern California and spent some time in Los Aniegos, the home of Starland and the entertainment capital of the world. Set in a desert valley, Los Aniegos has had issues with pollution and while it is better now than it used to be, there are still days when a chemical haze can be seen hovering over the city. While known for its entertainment, Los Aniegos is also home to one of the world's largest docks, beautiful beaches, as well as the homes and stores of the very wealthy. Must See: Watch the sun set on Walibu Beach.



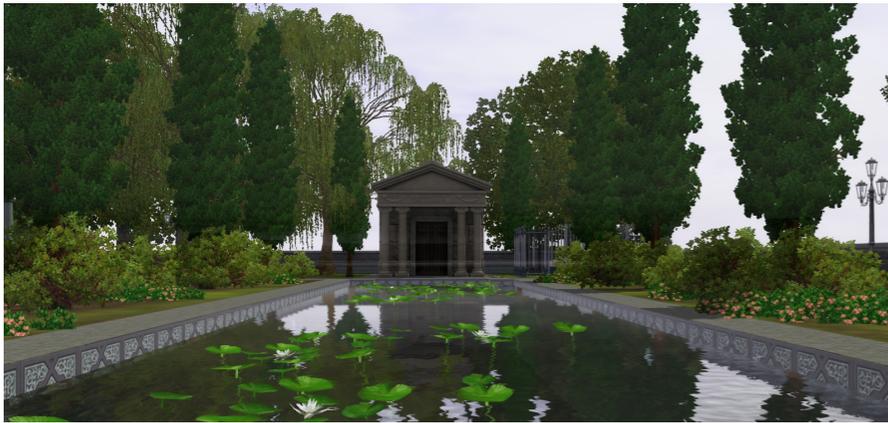
Lucky Palms

Nicknamed The Big Wager, Lucky Palms is a glitzy oasis in the middle of the Nevada desert famous for its games of chance. For a small city, Lucky Palms has a lot to offer. From the casino to the military base, the luxury hotels to the wind farm, and the houses on the lake to the outdoor cafes, Lucky Palms is a beautiful place to spend a few days relaxing or watching a few shows. Must See: World-class nachos at The Pepper Pot and a night of karaoke at Red Rooster.



Twinbrook

Located on the Gulf of Mexico, Twinbrook doesn't have a lot going on, but we were intrigued by the community's troubles coming back after hurricane Katrina. While the residents have decided to rebuild, it has been slow going. The factory (the town's biggest employer) has been fixed up, as has the retention dam, but the railroad trellis is still in pieces and since the railroad wasn't being used, it is unlikely to be cleaned up soon. Must See: A double feature at The Bijou, where they serve nectar and juice as well as the usual theater fare.



Bridgeport

Bridgeport is known as “the Jewel of the Night” and it is easy to see why. It is famous for its skyline as well as the Jackson Street Bridge, which are beautifully lit at night. In fact, Bridgeport shines brightest at night when its buildings are artfully lit and look like sleeping giants. While the city downtown is what draws the tourists, it's the little touches that make Bridgeport feel like home. There are diners, theaters, and the state capitol all within sight of downtown. Must See: Spend a day at the Wilifred Botanical Gardens and grab a Coney Island dog at Micky's afterward.



Moonlight Falls

Back to our mother's house in Moonlight Falls. She has agreed to keep our car here while we are at University, as long as she gets to occasionally drive it.

Thank you grandfather. We will remember you every time we think of this trip.



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ROLL YOUR ROOM!

Article by: *kitkat*
Photographs by: *Lex, mattu35, anejline, danimaree, FatTribble*



Have you hit a brick wall with your decorating? Do you have no idea what you want to do next? Well put your next room in the hands of Fortuna, or Lady Luck as she is known those who desperately appeal to her mercurial ways at the blackjack or roulette table. In this challenge, you must let luck alone decide where your inspiration shall come from! This is precisely the challenge that our forum members were presented with, and they met it with fine form as usual. Have a peek at the divine designs fickle Fortuna inspired them to create.

Lex - Purple Asian Study

Purple can be a tricky color to handle, but in Lex's deft hands it becomes the perfect accent. Dark wood walls and light furniture allow various hues of purple to shine without overpowering. With a color this bold, it pays to use it in small doses.



Lex - Orange Coastal Bedroom

Lex drew another tricky color in this coastal bedroom. Some shades of orange can seem overpowering, but choosing a more muted shade can counter this effect. In this lovely room, muted orange is used throughout and paired with a contrasting muted blue. The effect is tranquil and inviting.



mattu35 - Green Coastal Living Room

Mattu35 uses green masterfully in his living room with a coastal vibe. The green rug is paired with chair cushions in a matching hue, and a similar shade of green is used on the sofa. Natural wood on the floor and walls and a neutral brick fireplace ensure that the room is not overpowered by color.



FatTribble - Orange Contemporary Bathroom

Here, FatTribble lets the color be the star of the room. Orange is embraced in all its vibrant hues and used liberally throughout the room. Varying the shades of orange serves to break up the color and provide contrast. A lovely, muted contrasting blue on the walls provides the perfect backdrop to let the orange accessories shine.



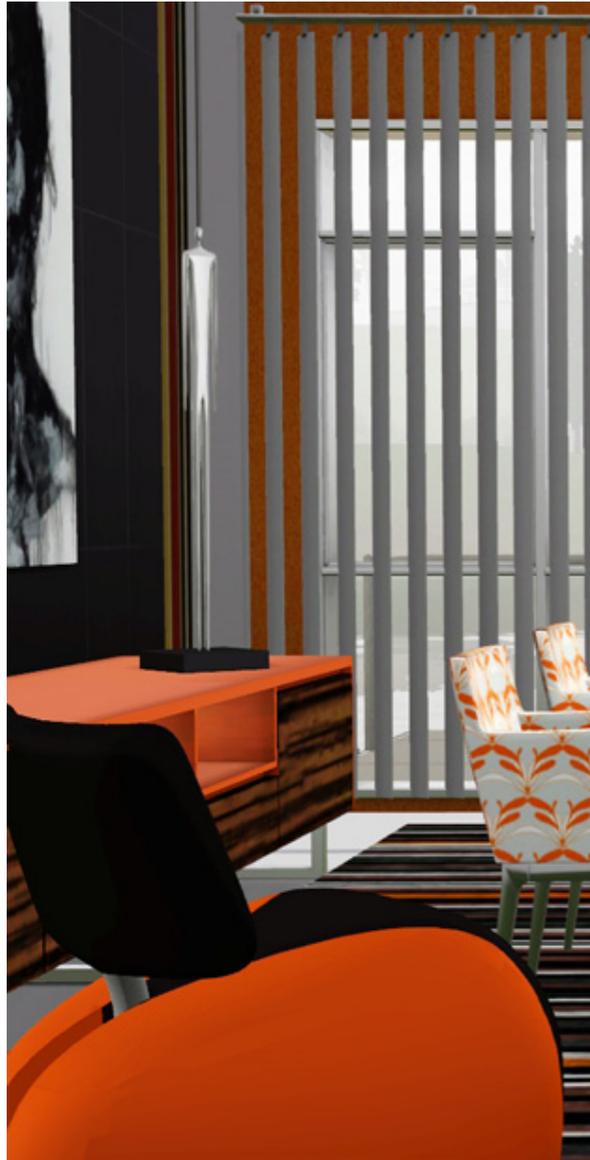
puzmo - Blue Coastal Dining Room

Puzmo shows us that your room doesn't have to be full of shells and sand to evoke a coastal feeling. Carefully chosen artwork sets the mood backed by a calming blue on the walls. A deeper shade of blue on the dining room chairs contrasts the neutral color on the furniture and table.



annejline - Orange Dining Contemporary

Annejline manages to make contemporary feel warm and inviting in this stunning orange dining room. A clever use of an orange and white pattern on the dining chairs makes a bold statement while still using the color with restraint. The black accent wall is the perfect backdrop for modern artwork and provides a contrast to the use of white on the flooring.



Island Paradise Cuisine

Article by: kitkat
Photographs by: mrmiss

Platanos • fried plantains

Ingredients

2 cups vegetable oil for frying
3 plantains, peeled, sliced into 1" pieces
salt to taste
garlic powder to taste



1. Heat the vegetable oil in a heavy skillet over medium heat.
2. Place the plantain slices in the oil, a few at a time, and cook until lightly golden in color for about three minutes.
3. Drain on paper towels. Repeat with the remaining slices.
4. While the plantain slices are still warm, place them one at a time between two sheets of wax paper and flatten by hand to 1/4 inch thick.
5. Return flattened slices to the skillet and continue frying until golden brown.
6. Drain on paper towels then season with salt and garlic powder.
7. Serve warm.

Cuban Sandwich

Ingredients

1 loaf Cuban bread
1 ounce regular mustard
4 thinly sliced dill pickles
5 slices boiled ham or Virginia ham
2 slices roast pork
1 slice imported Swiss cheese
1 ounce butter

1. Cut Cuban bread to desired size and slice open the bread down the middle.
2. On the topside of the bread, evenly spread 1 ounce of mustard. Then place 4 pickles on top of the mustard and 1 slice of Swiss cheese on top of the pickles.
3. Slice ham to desired thickness, the thinner the better.
4. Fold each slice of ham in half and place evenly on the bottom slice of bread, covering it.
5. On top of the ham, place slices of roast pork (1 1/2 ounces per slice), and then join both halves of
6. Use a sandwich grill if you have one, or a waffle iron if not.
7. Evenly spread butter on top of the bread.
8. Place the sandwich in the grill and close, smashing the sandwich. Leave sandwich in the grill until top of bread turns to a golden brown, and the top is crisp. Approximate time is 4 to 6 minutes.
9. After the sandwich is crispy, and the cheese has melted, remove the sandwich carefully and slice it diagonally, from corner to corner.
10. Serve Warm



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