



COTTAGE style

STORY MELODY WREN

Colin and Justin's tips to give your home a cottage vibe this summer.

Scottish decorators Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan have taken Europe by storm for the last 10 years, and now they are re-designing Canadian homes, one at a time. They recently renovated their own cottage in Ontario's Muskoka region. Their new show *Cabin Pressure* on Cottage Life television documents the overhaul. Here are their top tips on how to give your home a cottage vibe this summer.

1. Accessories: Use cushions with stags on them, or art with twigs that remind you of the great outdoors – nothing too twee. Lay a visual path to give that wonderful escapist feeling.

2. Color Scheming: A big colour this season is green in its myriad of shades. Layer it on with textures from knobby throws and gorgeous touchy-feely cushions that are a feast for the eyes and fingers. All these things allude to life at the lake.

3. Timber and wooden elements: You might want to think about having a timber feature wall, or you can get the same effect with photographic murals, which can be made to look like the side of a barn.

4. Art work: You can suggest so much with one purposeful piece of carefully-chosen artwork. Bring back a piece of art from a local gallery or cottage artisan. Every time you see it or look at it, you will be immediately transported to life at the lake.

5. Cottage escapism: Add some quirky elements next to your stylish sofa – a milking bench or a gnarly piece of timber. It may seem that these pieces shouldn't go together, but they do, and will give a little taste of the cottage right in the middle of a very metropolitan look.

6. Lighting: Light at the lake is bright and welcoming by day with a lovely woody atmosphere at night – really indulgent, beautiful and comfy. So play around with your lighting in your primary home environment. Create those atmospheric pulls that suggest life at the cottage.

7. Seasonal adjustment: Pale slipcovers and bright cushions are amazing for changing the mood and look of a room. Check out Bemz.com for slipcovers and myoverlays.com for transfer stickers and panels that adhere to standard, ubiquitous Ikea-style furniture, so you can add images of a beach or forest to bookcases and shelves.

8. Scents: "When we are decorating homes for our clients, it probably sounds cliché, we are not just interior designers, but interior diviners," Justin remarks. The mood of a room is changed by how it looks, how it feels and how it smells. So add lots of beautiful scented candles. Buy good soy wax candles that don't contain any of the nasties of the cheaper waxes.

9. Noise: A soft cottage sound track will always remind you of the lake. Get an alarm that sounds like a loon. It's such a beautiful, soft way to wake up. *Continued on page 4*



1



2

1. KICHLER LIGHTING FIXTURE: Living Lighting
2. LIVE-EDGE WOOD TABLE: Kincaid Furniture Company, Inc.

decorating



Inspired by Nature: A vase of twigs and nature-themed artwork give your space a natural vibe. Wooden elements such as weathered, grey barn-board or re-purposed strip flooring add rustic charm.



5



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10. Shopping: The best designs come from clever, careful shopping. It's not just buying stuff, it's being creative in your shopping. It's about going to garage sales or shopping smart on eBay, Kijiji and consignment stores.

11. Do it yourself: Save money by creating your own heritage. Work with local artisans, shop local and do what you can yourself. "We don't pay anyone to do anything we can't do ourselves," Justin adds. "There is DIY and DFY – do it yourself and done for you. There is a time for each of these things. We do things quickly, and people can learn from our carefulness."

12. Create memories: In Colin's words, "Canadians need to be selfish, especially empty nesters. Encourage people to have great memories. Memories start today." **OH**

3. CUSHIONS, THROW: Pottery Barn **4. ARTWORK:** Pi'lo
5. BARNBOARD FEATURE WALL: Barnboardstore.com