

Colorful cups are as vital to the creative process as the paintbrushes they hold. Opposite: The homeowner keeps things breezy and spare in the sitting area off the master bedroom.



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LA VIE BOHEME



**A PARISIAN FASHIONISTA SAYS "BONJOUR" TO A COLORFUL COTTAGE
ON THE BANKS OF A SMALL JAMAICAN FISHING VILLAGE**



IS A HOME EVER TRULY COMPLETE?

FOR FRENCH-BORN FASHION DESIGNER

Sophie Eyssautier, the answer is a resounding *non*. She finds there's always a new project to tackle in her stylish beachfront home in Treasure Beach, Jamaica. "I'll never stop tweaking it," she says with a laugh. "I have a big imagination." And more often than not, it presents itself in unexpected places in her home, like the large swinging sofa she installed in her main living area, or the Moroccan-inspired cut-outs that frame each room's doorway. In fact, this sense of fun is as much a part of the home's character as the island-friendly architecture that dictated much of its design.

Because the property is so close to the ocean, Eyssautier incorporated into the home's construction as many traditional, time-tested Jamaican building methods and materials as possible—a thatched roof, outer window covers, and concrete floors, which keep the house cool in the sizzling

Clockwise from below: Eyssautier designed the lower window screens on the home's exterior. The kitchen cabinetry is fashioned from cement and cedar. The garden veranda features cushions upholstered in a Waverly print. Opposite: The metal dining chairs are local scores. The blue-and-white bowls are from Pearl River Mart.



summers. "I also love that they're easy to maintain with the dogs and the sand," Eyssautier notes. And she couldn't help but add a sophisticated twist: The concrete was mixed with black powder and finished with a shiny sealant, making the floors as dazzling as they are durable; they're also fortified with steel to stand up well during hurricanes. (This corner of the world, after all, has had plenty of experience surviving perilous storms.)

But it's Jamaica's seductive side that prevails in the home's many artisanal accessories and furnishings. Eyssautier's own neighborhood is a veritable treasure trove for the eclectic pieces she covets and procures from local craftsmen: the slim console with the exotic yet simple lines in the living room, the eye-catching bamboo pendant on the balcony, the light fixture and colorful wire chairs in the dining area. And the pieces that she can't find, she's quick to create herself. For example, she had her dining room table custom made from a large piece of cedar that she stumbled upon during a trip to a famous Jamaican waterfall, and then hand-painted the coral branch mural on the wall that serves as its backdrop.







Clockwise from left: Eyssautier created a focal point in the master bedroom by adhering sea urchins to an acid-yellow wall. An oversize concrete vanity defines the bath. The distressed wood dresser in the walk-in closet is from Bohios. Opposite: The butterfly chairs on the balcony are from Urban Outfitters.



A SENSE OF FUN IS AS MUCH A PART OF THE HOME'S CHARACTER AS THE ISLAND-FRIENDLY ARCHITECTURE

These artistic flourishes play a big role. Because the palette in the living spaces is predominately shades of soft gray and soothing white, every pop of color makes a big impact: a bright citrus wall in the master bedroom, a whimsical faux rug painted on the concrete floor of an upstairs balcony, and the works of her niece and local artists on display. The result is an airy oasis that feels carefully curated over time, with enough different focal points to keep guests transfixed.

And while Eyssautier will likely never be completely done with all of the primping, fluffing, painting, and rearranging, it's a process she's come to enjoy. Here, brilliant beach views are all around her, and the breeze carries the sweet scents wafting from her own lush fruit-tree grove. "I feel more at home here than in France," she admits. "I'll never regret moving here." ≡

For more information, see Sources, page 101.

Christina Boyle Cush has written for dozens of national magazines. This is her second piece for Coastal Living.

