

CARIBBEAN DREAM

What does the star of Sarah's House 4 do when she goes on a tropical vacation? In addition to frolicking in the surf, she takes in a whole host of decorating ideas, of course



SARAH RICHARDSON
srichardson@globeandmail.com

If you're a design and style enthusiast, booking a holiday isn't always as easy as you might imagine. Balancing the urge to get away from it all with the desire to be inspired by your surroundings can often be a difficult sweet spot to hit. If the place you're going to isn't

at least as good as the home you've left behind, why bother? I try to ensure that the hotel, room, design and amenities I sign up for live up to the promise of the photos on the website, which was definitely the case at Viceroy Anguilla (www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com).

A boldly contemporary take on traditional Caribbean style, this tropical resort with interiors by the über-talented U.S. designer Kelly Wearstler is guaranteed to satisfy any modern sybarite. But be warned – you may never want to leave.



From the moment you enter the reception hall, it's clear that the Viceroy is no ordinary Caribbean retreat. Instead of whitewash, wicker and a sunny palette, practically every surface is clad in stone. Forgoing the common practice of creating interest by installing small-scale tiles in decorative patterns, Wearstler's application of diagonal slabs of cream, chocolate and charcoal marble is a bold, graphic treatment that makes a big first impression. **CONSIDER STRIKING UP THE BANDS** when laying stone at home.



While I'm not an advocate of working in your bedroom, it's sometimes okay to **MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE**, as the sleek built-in desk/vanity in the bedroom above demonstrates. The raised portion in the centre guarantees that work materials won't overtake the entire counter surface, while the lower cabinets flanking it offer abundant storage and enable the simple division of his and hers belongings.



A decorative rule of thumb at Viceroy Anguilla seems to be: **GO BIG**. Here, every ceiling soars, every view is far-reaching and every living area has an overscaled feel. In order to anchor such capacious spaces, the furnishings, lighting and accessories are all a touch larger than life-size. By outfitting grand spaces with a restrained number of large-scale pieces, you can create rooms that appear fully realized without feeling cluttered or overfurnished.



Wearstler's exploration of patterns isn't limited to stone – every wall and ceiling is given a unique treatment, too. To keep outdoor diners from baking in the midday heat, this beachside perch boasts a rough-sawn ceiling installed in a herringbone pattern as well as a horizontally panelled wall clad in wide, weathered boards. The lesson: **ELEVATE THE DESIGN FACTOR IN YOUR OUTDOOR SPACES BY PAYING ATTENTION TO EVERY DETAIL.**