

Profile

WENDY CAPELL OF DESIGN MATTERS AND WOODLANDS FABRICS & INTERIORS

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Dreamy getaway: Designer and window treatment specialist make decorating your vacation home a breeze

When a local couple bought a vacation house in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, they hired Woodlands designer Wendy Capell of Design Matters to do the interiors. Capell then collaborated with Nancy Charbonneau of Woodlands Fabrics and Interiors on the window treatments. The outcome was a stunning home that is been nominated for the prestigious Gold Nugget Design Award.

"Location is not a restriction," says Capell. "You can use our design services here no matter where your project is located. It makes good sense, practically and creatively, to handle all the choices and decisions here, where there is a wealth of designer resources, and then do the installation there."

"One of our main goals for a successful project," says Charbonneau, "is to aid our clients in visualizing the outcome." For instance, one aid she offers all her clients, whether it is for a main residence or a second home, is a computer program that uses photos taken of the windows on location. She then makes renderings of the proposed window treatments and the computer program superimposes them onto the window photographs. "It really helps the client visualize the end results," she says.

Since Cabo San Lucas has become a mecca for Hollywood celebrities and their vacation homes, the clients wanted their house to be decorated in high style, but also a comfortable one — neither stripped-down "beach house" nor ostentatious. They also wanted to take advantage of the view. "Every room looks out onto the Sea of Cortez, so we wanted to emphasize the beauty of the surroundings," says Charbonneau. Capell adds, "We also wanted to make full use of all the indoor-outdoor living that this home provides. At the same time, we didn't want to compete with the outdoors, so we went with a subtle, subdued palette: chocolate, blue and terracotta."

"The clients gave us a lot of creative freedom. They trusted our professionalism," says Charbonneau. "I think that was one of the reasons we had such a successful outcome." For Capell, "It was a dream project." A very doable dream, as it turns out. And isn't that a great definition of a vacation home?

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