

reimagine: flea market decorating

ocean view

Being landlocked doesn't mean you can't have seaside dreams. Use our collection of thrifty projects to give your bedroom a beachy-keen makeover.

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01 deep blue Crisp white paired with shades of blue is a hallmark of beach-cottage design. To bring the look to the bedroom, use needle and thread to tack a vintage tablecloth onto a white duvet.

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02 that's a wrap Dress up a solid-color storebought pillow with a colorful place mat. Wrap the mat around the pillow and secure with a length of grosgrain ribbon sewn to create a circle. Hide the hem with decorative buttons hot glued in place.



03 get the point Create treatments for small windows using lace-edged napkins. Cut the pieces in half diagonally, adding 1½ to allow for a rod pocket. Stitch the pocket along the top edge. Spray-paint a starfish and attach the ends to the napkin using a needle and thread. Hang the curtain from a tension rod. Make a second valance from the opposite corner of the napkin.

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04 end game Convert an old piano bench into a fun foot-of-the-bed bench. Paint the piece to coordinate with the room and then pad the top and cover it with fabric. The project is even easier with a lift-up lid; simply staple the fabric in place on inside the lid (cut and staple the fabric around the hinges).



05 easy upgrade Unattractive metal-and-glass lamps from the 1970s are commonplace at thrift shops. Bring one into this century with paint. Cover the socket and glass with painter's tape and then paint the whole piece white. Add stick-on gems for bling and top with a new shade.



06 surf's up Frame your window with an ocean-inspired valance. Draw wave shapes onto a 1×10-inch board; cut out using a jigsaw. Attach the shaped board to a second 1×10-inch board to create a shelf. Screw the completed shelf into the wall. For a grander statement, add vintage porch posts below the shelf (add square blocks to the posts' bases, if needed, for height). Attach the shelf to the posts' tops and screw each post base to the room's baseboard.

07 shell game Accessorize your "seaside" space with beach-theme accents. Fill a shallow dish with sand and add a collection of shells.



08 simple sheers When the window is framed in shades of blue, it's a good idea to keep the panels plain. These basic white curtains get just a touch of color from a band of blue sheer fabric added along the bottom. Hide the seam with a row of pom-pom fringe.

09 dressed up Save a bundle by buying a dresser with a missing drawer. Revive the piece with a two-tone paint job and new hardware. Fill the empty space with labeled baskets. If you find a matching vanity, paint it and add a stencil to the mirror with glass paint.

