

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Glen Peloso shows you how to bring that modern rustic look home from the cottage

BY GLEN PELOSO

The feeling of reclaimed and rustic decor has been popular for a while now. It became more popular as people returned to the city from their cottages, wanting to replicate that relaxed feeling in their urban spaces. It's not that difficult to achieve a marriage between rustic cottage and urban chic. Here are some simple things you can do to achieve that look in your home and make your next "staycation" that much more appealing.



RECLAIMED

Have a look at some of the larger pieces of furniture like coffee tables, side tables and ottomans. Replacing a glass coffee table with a reclaimed railway cart or a more refined dining table with a live-edge table helps to create the look.

ACCESSORIES

Change the accessories you currently have for reclaimed items. There is a real love of signs and symbols like the "&." The kitchen can have old menus that boast a coffee for a nickel or breakfast at \$1.99. Vintage advertisements for a variety of products or simple street names work to create that rustic feeling. Instead of vases, select old bottles, previously used for milk or soda.

SELECT FABRICS

like cotton linen or coarse weaves to continue the look. Raw-looking fabrics like undyed cottons have a rough-hewn look that is relaxed and casual. Choosing simple lines in the furniture and cushions helps to maintain the urban look while still giving you a relaxed cottage feel.

Throw blankets of finished cotton or knitted cotton are soft to the touch and casual in look.



Throws and toss cushions Natural & White. 16 x 24-inch, \$44.
Bella Notte Whisper, White & Silvermist. 12 x 24-inch, \$193.
Monaco Stone Throw, 50 x 70-inch, \$176.



SLIP COVERS

Adding a slipcover over an existing sofa can give it a more relaxed feeling that it didn't previously have. The type of fabric you select will make all the difference; in this case, poly linen or cotton go a long way to create that look. Inherently, the wrinkles that are part of those fabrics make the room feel casual. Some people use slipcovers to change the way the sofa feels, season to season. Solid colours work well as a neutral but, if you're looking for something a little more feminine, florals will quickly add that girly touch to a room.

WALL COVERINGS

Covering one wall with barn board, which comes in a variety of colours, offers a very rustic feel. The wood provides texture, colour and warmth to the room. There are a variety of suppliers but make sure the wood is kiln-dried. Getting barn board straight from a barn may give you pests along with the wood if it isn't dried. You can also use a mural to get the look without the texture. Mural Unique has some great images that are very convincing in barn boards of varying colours.



LIGHTING FIXTURES

that look as though they came from an old metal factory or an industrial work bench are also great to achieve that modern rustic look. If you have the opportunity to use exposed light bulbs in one of the fixtures, try the Edison bulbs. The filaments are a design item in themselves and offer that old-world feel.



SOURCES

LIGHT FIXTURE: Living Lighting, livinglighting.com **SLIP COVERS:** Potato Skins, potatoskinstoronto.com **BARN BOARD:** Barn Board Store, barnboardstore.com **CUSHION/THROW:** Au Lit Fine Linens, autilfinelinens.com

Glen Peloso, co-founder and principal of Peloso Alexander Interiors, has designed over 300 projects. With Jamie Alexander, they bring 35 years combined experience, creating environments that merge clients' lifestyle, personality and architecture. In the media, Glen is an expert on the Marilyn Dennis Show, design columnist for the Toronto Star's "New in Homes," and the national design editor for Canadian Home Trends magazine. pelosoalexander.com, twitter @glenpeloso & @glenandjamie, Facebook.com/glenpeloso

