

home design guide

may 2011

Home Away from Home

Outdoor Design Trends 2011

Vacation homes – a home away from home - we envision it to be the comfortable little refuge we escape to when we want to get away from it all. And it can be – if it's designed right with relaxation and comfort in mind.

Most vacation homes tend to be smaller than primary homes. It makes sense, it needs to be less expensive to build, hold and maintain and the reality is, you do not live there full time. "Right sizing" your vacation home is vitally important to ensure your retreat is not too cramped during your short or extended stay.

With our firm's experience in designing several international vacation home projects, we can share with you some design ideas to consider when planning your new vacation home.

Site it Right

Most vacation homes are in destination locations. The first feature about a vacation home is the way it is sited on the property. Orient indoor and outdoor living spaces to take full advantage of views and natural light – experience the full drama of the place you are investing in. If there are expansive vistas, use sliding glass doors and windows to open the indoors to the views. Include spacious decks and balconies for outdoor living enjoyment. Enhance your views and outside spaces with small outdoor fountains, pools or landscaping.

Budget is a Driver

Is your budget a prime factor in the size of your new vacation home? Save money – think about a garage - do you really need one? Maybe a carport will do for the week or two you will stay there. If you're worried about securing and storing some personal items, consider designing an "Owner's Closet" instead of a full garage to securely store things like fishing gear, bikes, kayaks, beach gear, skis or snowboards, etc...

Smaller, But Smarter

Vacation homes are usually designed with no wasted space and without formal rooms like a living room and dining room you really won't use. Instead, design a "great room" - a large open living space that connects with the everyday dining space and kitchen. Omitting extra rooms will also save on furniture purchases for those rooms – more money to spend on other items.



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Kitchens are probably the most expensive room in any home. Design them to be adequate for your vacation needs – simple and efficient.

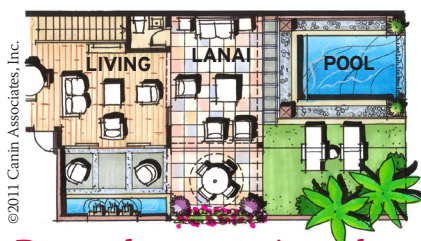
Vacation activities may require more clothing changes than normal, and you can only pack so much. The laundry room in your vacation home can actually be a space-saving closet with an efficient stacked combination washer and dryer. Don't forget to include shelves for detergents and dryer sheets.

Storage

Walk in closets are not necessary if you are only bringing some of your clothes with you, but small walk-ins make sense as a place to stow away your luggage, which will provide more room in the bedroom.

When shopping floor plans for your next vacation home, use the above ideas as a checklist to guide your decisions on your home plan needs. Get the best value out of your new vacation home plans. Memories are made there, and don't forget your camera.

If you have any questions about resort housing or vacation homes, please feel free to reach one of our design experts and we'll be glad to assist you. ●



Do you have questions about home design or remodeling?



Contact Tony at twereimeichik@canin.com or visit his company's website at www.canin.com. Years of research in custom home design, remodeling and home building has led Tony Weremeichik, Principal of Canin Associates' Architectural Design Studio, to be a strong advocate for home buyers and home owners to get the best design and construction value for their money. He leads clients and builders through a well-orchestrated design process that provides his clients with the utmost attention and creative design solutions.