

Design Your Summer!

Summer decorating is a wonderful way to lighten up the colors and fabrics in your home. This season, it's all about the Asian inspired accents in earthy and au natural shades. Check out these decorating tips to cool down the hottest season of the year!

Going au Naturel

Earthy textures in Asian inspirations are a great way to add a cool touch to your design project. Everything from bamboo bowls for your kitchen to jute rugs for any room will add that summer casualness to your home. If you want more layers for your windows, bamboo shades are a great way to bring in the natural element.

Faux Wood

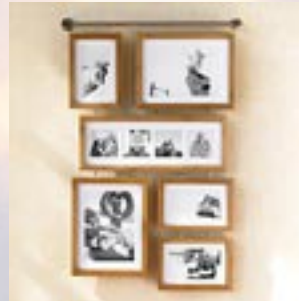
Faux wood décor is an inexpensive way to bring an earthy element into your room. Accessorizing with wood-like elements grounds a room. Continuing with the theme, caned furniture is making a huge comeback. Even if you bring in one piece of caned furniture to your room, you will introduce a relaxed summer atmosphere to your room.



Round bamboo serving tray
at West Elm, \$16.99



Bamboo Woven Ottoman
Slipcover Black Twin
at Target, \$29.99



Bamboo Wall Gallery Frame at
Red Envelope, \$59.99



Ragar Jewelry Box
at furnitureday.com, \$139.00

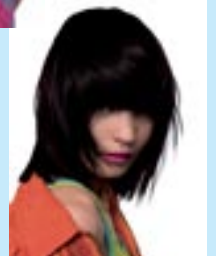
What's Hot in Asia!

Hair Style & Care: VS Sassoon

Vidal hair styling techniques and products is making a mark in Asia, being ranked top brand by consumers in the hair styling category.

Vidal Sassoon, one of the world's most recognized names in hairdressing offer women and men prestige salons with Sassoon crafted cut and color techniques to create and evolve the effortlessly sophisticated looks their clients love. Sassoon work with hair in it's natural state, to treat it as organic material, to apply precision techniques with consideration to what will suit the individual creating a look of effortless sophistication.

Up to date, the Sassoon studio has flagship salons in Japan, Hong Kong and China, with product offerings throughout most Asian capitals.



Star Profile: Yao Ming 姚明



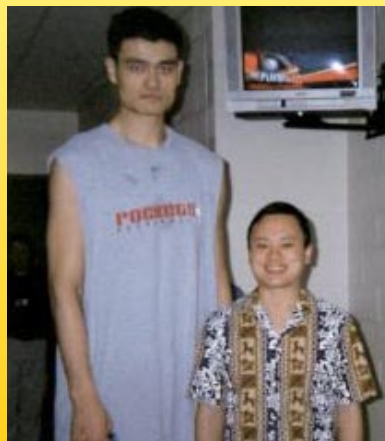
Houston Rockets center Yao Ming may lay his head in Houston, but his heart is still in Shanghai, his hometown.

Yao Ming (姚明), born September 12, 1980, in Shanghai, China is a Chinese professional basketball player and one of the premier centers in the National Basketball Association. He is the only son of his father Yao Zhiyaun and Fang Fengdi. He played for the Shanghai Sharks for five years, and was drafted by the Houston Rockets of the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 2002, and later that year became only the third Chinese national ever to play in the NBA. Yao was already famous, and famously tall at 7'5".

Yao hasn't spent very much time in Shanghai the past five years. After the Rockets chose him

as the number-one pick in the 2002, Yao and his parents moved to the suburbs of Houston. Even so, Yao looms large in Shanghai. His face appears on every McDonald's bag; on enormous billboards along Nanjing Road (Shanghai's equivalent of Fifth Avenue); and, on a nearly daily basis, in the Shanghai newspapers, which faithfully report on the Rockets. The city cheered when he was named the Western Conference Player of the Month last November. Although few of the city's 16 million know Yao personally, to all of them, he is Shanghai's favorite son.

And a dutiful one. Every summer, when the basketball season ends, Yao returns to Shanghai. When he came home after his rookie year, in May 2003, Shanghai was in the middle of the SARS crisis. Yao put together a telethon that raised \$300,000 in relief. A year later, he accepted the position of global ambassador for the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, which Shanghai will host this October.



Yao Ming and William Hung



110 metre hurdles World Record Liu Xiang and Yao Ming

Editor's Pick



Carpe Diem!

The perfect way to cap off your summer is a treat-yourself, spontaneous trip to Singapore. Indulge in the finest of Asian cuisine from Cantonese to sushi, Korean barbecue to Indian curry, stroll down Orchard Road and shop till you drop for a brand new fall wardrobe of the latest in Asian and Western fashions, and finally, fall in love all over again with cultures and traditions from around the world in Little India, Chinatown, and Little Arab. All this and more in the heart of Singapore – it's the only place to experience Asia in a nutshell!



**What I Want
this Summer!**