

Casual Elegance, Personal Style

# Romantic HOMES

easy  
paint-overs

SMALL-SPACE  
gardening  
Creative Ch

## Best of Two Worlds

DARK WOODS ADD SPUNK AND ARTISTRY TO A ROOM THAT'S BATHED IN YELLOW. THE LAKE IN THE DISTANCE, WHERE BLUE HERONS OFTEN LAND, OPENS UP THE VIEW TO ANOTHER WORLD.



BY WELCOMING CARIBBEAN BOTANICALS INTO THEIR DRAWING ROOMS, THE BRITISH COLONISTS MADE LIFE IN THE COLONIES EASIER FOR THEMSELVES.

an ease to it that's reflective of the way it was created."

Here, airy sheers are joined with dark cherrywood, lush fruit patterns and a formal grandfather clock. "Before we committed to the decor," says the homeowner, "I kept looking at the British Colonial style and thinking how it really makes you float away. I got a feeling of breeziness and relaxation. It also gave me the feeling of sanctuary."

The British were certainly relaxed about breaking traditional rules of decorating. By welcoming Caribbean botanicals into their drawing rooms, they made life in

the colonies easier for themselves.

Paper fans might not have been helpful by themselves in such a warm environment so it became necessary to allow for circulating air. "The use of wispy sheers is symbolic of the mosquito netting the British used to protect themselves from insects and still allow a breeze at night."

Breezes also were welcome during the day, so away went heavy curtains. "If you choose plantation shutters, they help you set the theme," says the homeowner. Her white armoire in the living room, which houses a television and