Mod Mex

A timeless palette of blue and white evokes the laid-back feel of a beachside retreat.

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS I have spent many holidays at Casa Aramara, a beachside vacation home in Punta Mita on Mexico's Pacific Coast. Located on a naturally secluded peninsula northwest of Puerto Vallarta, Casa Aramara is one of my favourite homes in the world. The charms of the house and location have not escaped the notice of others – numerous Hollywood stars, including Jennifer Aniston, Paris Hilton, Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, have claimed sanctuary there. While its interiors are not quintessentially Mexican, the home's blue and white palette is timeless and would translate well in an Australian coastal interior.

To recreate this look, I have chosen blue-toned fabrics and wallcoverings that are more muted and, I feel, more contemporary. White accessories add crispness, and antique items such as a star lantern and rush seat personalise the space. The mix of chic and rustic elements is in perfect harmony with a relaxed seaside ambience – definitely conducive to enjoying a margarita or two!

1 + 3 B Berger 'Inverness Tweed' polyester/cotton in Stone Blue and **2** in Chambray, both from Ascraft. **4** Fortuny 'Spagnolo' cotton in col. 5058, from Ascraft. **5** Casa Aramara living room. **6** Rattan lamp from Alfresco Emporium. **7** 'Geometrical' brush holder and tea canister in Pale Blue from Meïzai. **8** 'Malawi' rattan chair in White from Orient House. **9** 'Boston' cushion and Ralph Lauren 'New York' cushion in Coriander from Coco Republic. **10** Henry Dean glass hurricane lamps in Ivory from Ondene. **11** 'Grass Illusions' wool rug in Riviera Navy from Cadrys. For stockists see Address Book.

12 Casa Aramara living room. **13** Guy Masureel 'Violina' linen wallpaper in Pure Turquoise from Ascraft. **14** Christopher Farr Cloth 'Belfour' linen in Indigo, from Ascraft. **15** 'Samara' cotton/linen in Midnight from Mokum. **16** Bronze-edged faceted 'Star' lantern from The Country Trader. **17** French Provincial oak bench with rush seat from The Country Trader. **18** Balinese copper pot from Orient House. **19** 'Spa Love Seat' from Meïzei. **20** Blue hues from Porter's Paints. **21** The exterior of Casa Aramara. **22** Drum ceramic coffee table from Meïzei. **23** Turkish 'Kelish' wool rug from Cadrys. **24** 'Fez' cushion in Navy from Alfresco Emporium. For stockists see Address Book.