



Brooke Babington and her husband Kevin Bowers bought this three-bedroom Cheung Chau village house in March 2010 as a peaceful escape from the fast pace of their Monday-to-Friday lives in Central. The family heads out to the small island, ten kilometres southwest of Hong Kong Island with a population of approximately 23,000 people, every weekend as soon as their two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Bayley finishes school. "We stay until Monday morning if we can and if we have public holidays we head out for longer. It's definitely an escape from the hustle and bustle. We just swim at the beaches, hike with our dogs, barbecue, ride our bikes, read – it is really general laziness," says Brooke.

The successful revival of the 1980s house was helped by Brooke's positive engagement with every aspect of the 17-month project. "I am addicted to design," laughs Brooke. Wishing for their very own beach getaway on the island, Brooke started afresh by finding inventive ways to add character to the space. "I love bright colour and a bit of kitsch; I can't stand all the white, no-personality places that exist. Your home should be a reflection of what you like, not what you think people want to see. It's all in the mix – make it funky, and if it doesn't look right, you can just change it,"

There is a laid-back, welcoming atmosphere inside that connects seamlessly to the outdoors. "This is a weekend beach