The winter months are rapidly approaching, but there's no reason why your guests should feel as dull as the clouds outside. A few splashes of colour in the lobby or as feature pieces in guest rooms can brighten up the surrounds and pass on good vibes to guests. Tropical style is fresh and fun, and the warmth and cheeriness of bright colours can do wonders for a space. Tropical décor can function in both formal and informal settings, and anything in between.

One of the hallmarks of tropical décor is bright, bold colours. Items in yellow, green and blue will stand out and work as a feature piece within the space. Sometimes less is more, and only a small bit of bright colour will help lift the mood of the room. Don't get carried away - use small dashes of intensity to give a tropical flavour. The Mafalda Chair, designed by Patricia Urquiola for Moroso and available from Matisse, is a good example of a feature piece - the bright yellow, similar to Resene Headlights, eases in to the wooden legs, which also brings a natural feel to the room. A capsule light from Ico Traders has a similar effect, albeit in Resene Good As Gold. An alternative is to use cushions to make couches stand out with items like the Kip & Co Apricot Velvet Tassel Cushion Cover. The peachy pastel interior is framed with a bold trim in Resene Malarkey, allowing it to stand out from its surroundings.

Don't be afraid of patterns. Pillows prints and wallpaper can all work together to capture a tropical feel, and can do so without looking like an ugly Hawaiian

Coromandel Chair, Ico Resene Ruck N Maul KIP&CC Stripey Canvas Bean Bag, KIP&CO Kombu Tassel Cushion Cover, KIP&CO nbu Beanbag Resene

shirt. When used sparingly and as accent pieces, bold patterns can bring personality to a room and serve as a conversation starter. The Biknit Small Chair, designed by Patricia Urquiola for Moroso, also available from Matisse, is one such item. With a seat of green reminiscent of Resene Hashtag and a mottled backrest of woven fabric, the Biknit Chair juxtaposes dark wood with light green and a subtle but effective pattern.

Sticking with bold colours isn't the only option for a tropical design palatte. Muted greens and earthy colours conjure images of the undergrowth and can make a space feel cosy and welcoming. The Kip & Co Green Velvet Beanbag, in a colour like Resene Campground or Green Velvet Cushion in the slightly darker Resene Ruck N Maul can act as a counterpoint to the bright tropical colours of the feature pieces while retaining a natural feel. Darker, more earthy tones similar to the Resene Trouble present in the Ligne Roset Rouche Sofa from DOMO, invoke feelings of rich vegetation. While rusty tones like Resene Rumour Has It bring natural wood colours into play for a slightly more muted tropical aesthetic, and the gentle shapes of the Coromandel Chair from Ico Trading will put guests at ease.

Of course, the best way to invoke tropical vegetation is to simply have vegetation on hand. Plant & Pot have a lovely range of indoor plants which will relax guests, bring fresh air and bring a space to life. The Golden Pothos combines the yellow brightness of Resene Wild Thing with a range of greens spanning Resene Limerick right down to the darker Resene Kaitoke

