

## HOUSE DETAILS TOO WEB CONTENT

### Decorating Tips

#### Ten Common Decorating Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

1. Always think about your house as a complete experience. A common mistake is to do one room over the course of a year and then begin the adjacent room the next year. When the whole house is finished, you wonder why it doesn't blend together. Instead, make decisions on a smaller scale in different rooms during your decorating program.
2. Just because the living room has a different feeling than the den doesn't mean you should paint each room in unrelated colors. Be certain there is at least one color that runs throughout the rooms. This can be achieved with a consistent trim or ceiling color.
3. When hanging pictures, collect all of them and lay them out on the floor to determine which ones have a cohesive relationship with one another in terms of size, color and subject. Then, place them room by room as if you were creating a collage. Try to avoid attacking the blank wall above the sofa then moving outwards.
4. White rooms do not make light rooms. If you like light filled rooms, paint the walls dark and then add furniture and lighting fixtures.
5. Be careful what you buy. Just because you can afford a piece does not mean it's right for your home. A good decorative purchase should serve you well over an extended period of time.
6. Anything you love is never out of style. Don't make the mistake of falling for someone else's idea of comfort. No one knows what you love better than you.
7. Lighting can make or break a room. If you want to light a room, use translucent shades. If you want task lighting, use opaque. Translucent allows light to emit through the shade; opaque prevents it.
8. Just because you like shine doesn't mean your house should look like it's underwritten by Mop N Glo. Complement the shine with a contrasting material that has density, texture and a matte finish. Remember, opposites attract.
9. When decorating your mantle, keep it simple. A four-foot candelabrum does not make a better fireplace.
10. If you're going to buy a sofa or chair without trying it first, you might as well not try on your new shoes. Remember, great decoration is about function first, and beauty second.

#### How to Mix Pattern and Color

- Think large scale with many colors, medium scale with some colors, small scale with just a few colors, and you'll do just fine. You won't want to mix whites in with your patterns.
- Always use at least three different fabrics in a room. The first of three should be a large scale floral. Let it be the focal fabric.
- Choose your second pattern with half the scale or size of the first pattern. And, it shouldn't hold as many of the colors as the first. This pattern should not be a floral; try for a plaid or stripe.
- The third pattern should use two or three of the scheme's colors.
- To finish, try adding another pattern such as a tiny check. The check can be used as welting on the pillows or bedding.

## Budget-Savvy Decorating Do's and Don'ts

### **DO:**

- ❖ Gather samples of product such as fabrics, carpets and floor tiles from home furnishings retailers to see how materials will look in your home before you buy.
- ❖ Revive tired chairs and sofas with cheery slipcovers
- ❖ Repeat similar fabrics and colors for a coordinated custom look.
- ❖ Rely on paint as a low-cost tool. Applying two tones can give a wall a quick lift.
- ❖ Paint trim white to unify rooms.
- ❖ Hang a collection of mirrors to visually increase the size of a room and the amount of light. Select complementary frames.
- ❖ Include dimmers – they're inexpensive and easy to install.
- ❖ Revamp lamp shades by covering with new fabric or adding a decorative trim.
- ❖ When installing Roman shades or Venetian blinds, use an inside mount to give them a custom look.
- ❖ Cover kitchen chairs yourself and make the task easier by using a staple gun.
- ❖ Add ready-made molding to rooms to give them architectural interest.
- ❖ Use a screen to hide a radiator.
- ❖ Bring in plants. A tall plant, such as a ficus tree works well to fill an empty corner.
- ❖ Think pairs. Using two of an item creates harmony.
- ❖ Look for chests to function as both seats (with a cushion) and storage units.
- ❖ Use rugs to divert attention from scarred floors.
- ❖ Start a collection and display it to personalize a room.
- ❖ Decorate a bath with pretty toiletries on wall-mounted glass shelves.
- ❖ Save money by mixing solid bed sheets with more expensive prints.
- ❖ Fashion a skirt to conceal exposed pipes beneath a bathroom sink.
- ❖ Glue a strip of thick fringe along the bottom of an old upholstered chair to give it an updated look.
- ❖ Use white enamel or acrylic paints to transform flea-market finds.
- ❖ Add a note of sophistication with a touch of black, such as an end table or a vase.
- ❖ Highlight paintings with art lights and sculptures with uplights.

### **DON'T:**

- ❖ Design built-ins before determining the standard sizes of materials.
- ❖ Lay a small rug over carpet. It looks like you're trying to cover up a stain.
- ❖ Display sweet things like bears in the living room. Keep sentimental objects in the bedroom.
- ❖ Live with dated cabinet hardware. Swap old fittings for metal pulls or glass knobs.
- ❖ Buy a major piece without knowing exactly where it will fit. Formulate furniture placement on paper.
- ❖ Stretch for expensive marble and granite. Substitute a modern look-alike materials such as laminate.
- ❖ Fill the chandelier with clear glass bulbs. Use frosted bulbs instead.

- ❖ Try to do your windows all at once. Begin with privacy shades, then add panels and valances later.
- ❖ Be intimidated by patterns. Many companies group fabrics to take the guesswork out of design.
- ❖ Store pretty plates. Mount some of your favorites on a wall.
- ❖ Scatter collections. Place items together on a tray for a unified look.
- ❖ Get hooked on fads. If the newest trend is animal prints, buy something small like a pillow rather than a rug or a sofa.
- ❖ Fall into the blue for boys/pink for girls trap. Neutral themes more easily grow with your child.