



Home Decorating 101

*Tips to make decorating your home
an enjoyable experience*

By Candice Adler

Decorating a home can be very intimidating for anyone, so I thought it may be helpful to suggest some simple tips even a first time novice can master. Don't stress out as to where to begin; I am going to guide you through the process. Whether you just purchased your first home or you are redoing the home you raised your family in, there is a process to make it an enjoyable experience.

First, start off thinking about your color scheme. I usually have a basic color scheme I carry over from room to room. The way I differentiate each space depends on how I play out the different tones and accent colors within each room. It is really that simple. If my clients have certain pieces of furniture they absolutely want to recycle, I decide where and how will they function best while being esthetically pleasing at the same time. If you truly love something, it should be on display. It does not necessarily have to "go" with the colors or furniture as far as theme. It is more about the scale and personality it brings to the space.

Many of my clients call me about their older home; distraught about the lower ceilings and broken floor plans. They complain the flow is fragmented and dated. People want to entertain their friends and families in an updated, open floor plan. One way I make a room feel larger is by using mirrors to trick the eye into believing this space is much larger. I love over-scale large mirrors in small spaces for just this reason.

Mirrored panels on a wall, if done correctly, can make a room grow right before your eyes. Sectioned mirrors will look best, as sheets of mirror tend to look too commercial. I create strong verticals to make the ceilings feel taller, along with furniture that is considered low-slung. This also adds to the feeling of height, a factor difficult to change without extensive



construction.

Something I have also done in a space is paint the trim with color. I've done black trim, which makes a bold statement without a large investment. Trim is usually overlooked as a basic neutral. Painting it can definitely be a scary, bold move, but I say go for it. Take that chance. Think out of the box. I believe you may be more than pleased with the outcome.

When purchasing your furniture, do not skimp because the kids will be "destroying it in no time." It is well worth spending your money on comfortable, well-made furniture that will last. If there is a very expensive fabric you're dying to use, but afraid of the longevity, use it on a pillow or accent ottoman. That way, if you decide to put it away for a reason, you can as you have control over it.. Use it in a smaller way, but use it.

If your taste tends to be neutral in flavor, add a twist with a variety of textures and materials. Try cotton, silk, taffeta, velvets, or organics. The possibilities are endless, while allowing you to keep with the neutral tones your most comfortable with. Depending on the lighting in the room, the textures and colors will read differently, so try and select your fabrics in the natural setting if possible.

Please pay close attention to my next bit of

advice. If you think you are saving money by purchasing pre-fabricated window treatments, then you must make sure they are not in line for the next flood. Panels must go all the way to the floor, and just touch it lightly. If they do not come in the exact length, go up a size and hem them. It is the only way; please trust me.

People are always surprised when I mix my metals, and I say, why not? Metal finishes add sparkle to the room and come in a variety of finishes. Mix gold, silver, and bronze/ As long as each plays their role — and is thought out and balanced — it

works. The key is to use equal amounts of each.

If you're struggling with your rug selection, play it safe. You can always use a straw rug inside; it is not just an outdoor textile, and I love the organic feeling it gives to any space. Straw and jute are my usual staples. They are chic and considered the white t-shirt of design. Throw in a grouping of pillows with contrasting patterns, color, and texture and "voila" ...your space has new life. Go with bold oversized pillows that don't look like they just came with the sofa.

Add some eye-catching tile to the backsplash in your kitchen or bathroom. This quick change can really make a bold statement. It does not need to be overly costly or too time consuming if it's thought out and prioritized.

Make your home yours for the holidays. You won't regret it. I promise a smile when you walk in the door, and a feeling of accomplishment for what you have achieved. The only obstacle in your way is you; so go for it. ■

We wish you all a very happy holiday season filled with peace, love and joy to all, from Candice Adler Design. Visit www.candiceadlerdesign.com for inspirational photos and ideas.