

Designer Secrets



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Edit. Get rid of all those things you don't need and only buy what you love. Get help formulating an overall design plan and work towards it in stages. It's not about filling spaces, it's about surrounding yourself with objects of your own private world of memories.

Composition. The room is a three-dimensional space. Consider ways of layering window or wall fabric treatments, artwork, screens, ceiling treatments, and lighting to visually fill in the composition. Additional fabric softens the room, and wall sconces or low chandeliers bring a more intimate feeling.

Mood. Well-designed spaces don't show everything at once -- they invite you in and allow you to keep learning. Emotion can be created with well-placed lighting on many levels to suit the occasion. Consider how the interior lights are seen from the outdoors. Multiple seating groups in moveable arrangements with unique personal objects keep the eye moving around the room.

Soul. Mixing antiques with modern objects brings out the best in both. Seemingly incompatible objects complement each other. Introduce layers of textures, fabrics, and materials for a collected look.

Beauty. Use elusive, natural colors that change with the light. Materials and elements are perfect in their most natural form -- there is no need to improve upon their beauty. Strong colors and patterns can feel aggressive; they have nothing to do with serenity.



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Determine Your Goals. The first step in designing or renovating your home is to determine your goals. Ask yourself, what do you want your home to "feel like" when you walk in the door? Think about your style, the time involved and budget consideration.

Flow of Traffic. One of the most important parts of your home is traffic flow. You need to consider where people are walking and what makes sense in terms of function. Your home not only needs to look beautiful, but function for you and your family as well.

Create Your Color Palette. Browse Houzz and design magazines to get a feel for what colors you love. Create a board of your favorite color scheme to make sure they all work well together.

Edit. Take a step back and edit what you have selected. Taking time away and then coming back to it makes a huge difference. Make sure everything works well together by taking things away or adding them. You can always add, remember that!

Take Risks. Don't be scared of trying something new and different. It's your home! Your home should be a reflection of your personality and not look just like a magazine ad. Don't be scared of bright and bold colors. Just because you've been doing something for a while, doesn't mean you have to keep doing it.

