



HOME DESIGN TIPS

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This is a compilation of the home design tips and tricks used by professional designers and decorators. Use these tips in your home to enhance your design and decorating ability.

P.S. You don't have to tell anyone that you got the ideas from this e-book. Let them think you did it on your own. Or...you can pass them this e-book and let them have as much fun as you.

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8 Tips Shopping for Furniture on a Tight Budget

Today everyone is trying to save money and budgeting whenever possible. Being a savvy shopper is another way of saving money. Here are a few tips to get you started:

1. Try to shop for furniture when there are sales; so that you have a better chance of saving money. Do some research to find out what the pieces you are looking for cost before the sale price.
2. Look for furniture that can serve more than one purpose is a money saver. you can find ottomans that serve as additional seating, a place to rest your feet and storage. Large chests that are used for storing sheets and blankets can also be used as night-stands. Sturdy baskets can also be used as end tables and extra storage. Think out of the box when purchasing furniture, See if you can come up with different uses for the pieces you are considering.
3. Remember; you get what you pay for so always check the quality of what you are buying. Pull out the drawers. Do they slide out easily? How about the door hinges? Are they sturdy?
4. Look for floor model sales. Many stores constantly cycle their furniture and bring out new pieces and sell the floor models. Today with dwindling sales some may even sell the floor models if it means making a quick sale.
5. Check out the garage sales and flea markets. Not everything in these places is garbage. People may just want to get rid of unnecessary pieces of furniture and accessories that may be just what you are looking for and at a great price.
6. Re-upholster or re-finish if possible. Sometimes worn furniture may just need new cushions or a little touch-up on the wood finish. If the piece you love is falling apart or looks worn you can just replace the upholstery or have it re-finished - by yourself or an expert (if it's in your budget).
7. Don't be an impulse buyer. The piece you see that is on sale and at a good price may not work with your decor. Know what you want and stick to your plan.
8. Watch your budget. Keep the amount you have budgeted in mind when shopping and try not to exceed that amount. Overspending is the best way of getting into financial difficulties. Go to: www.homedesignsense.com for more information.

8 Color Choosing Tips

There are thousands of colors available and that can make choosing difficult. Here are a few tips that may help you make the right decision:

1. Use bold colors sparingly.
2. Different values of the same hue create a soothing environment.
3. Look to nature for color combinations.
4. Consider your geographic location when choosing colors.
5. Small rooms should have a minimal amount of different colors.
6. Too many colors can make the eye unable to focus on one item.
7. Be bold and experiment with color. Remember you can always repaint.
8. Experiment with color combinations. How about lilac and green? Or purple and yellow?

You can find more color information at: www.homedesignsense.com

Home Design: 10 Furniture Decorating Tips

These tips will help with arranging and buying furniture; while being creative with your choices.

1. If you have a tight budget splurge on a good sofa. This is where most people will be comfortable.
2. Leave room; when purchasing furniture to add more items later.
3. Put items in a room that are personal and have stories in them to tell your guests.
4. Don't buy a coffee table - be creative by using an old trunk or bench.
5. Don't fill a large one with one giant seating area. Make several smaller ones for more intimate arrangements.
6. Antique pieces give a room personality...but don't overdo.
7. Old furniture can be recovered or slip covered to update its look.
8. Have a common color to unite the room and pull everything together.
9. Matching pieces is not always necessary as long as the scale is the same.
10. Monochrome palettes make rooms look larger; so keep this in mind if you have a small room. Find more information at: www.homedesignsense.com

4 Bedroom Decorating Ideas

Bedrooms are the most frequent redecorating candidate. Every so often, we look at the room and think it's boring or even outdated. It costs money to change it; but redecorating doesn't need to be expensive! Here are a few simple tips:

1. The quickest way to a new look is a coat of paint. Even if you use the same color (because you had paint left over); a fresh coat of color reinvigorates the room and makes it look cleaner and newer. If you've grown tired of your wall color you can choose a new one.
2. Adding new pillow shams on a limited budget can change the look of the room. If you find a great deal on pillow shams, buy them and you can fill them with plain foam pillows and give your bed a luxurious look by piling them on.
3. A new comforter or bedspread is another way to change the look of your bedroom inexpensively.
4. Window treatments are another way of changing the look of the room. But; keep it coordinated. If you can't find curtains that match your comforter you can use sheets of the same pattern and color. If you don't sew, use the special "no-sew" fabric glue sold in craft and fabric stores to hem a nice edge.

Decorating or redecorating a bedroom is often a matter of changing one or two elements. But keep in mind that you spend a lot of time in this room; so make it soft and luxurious. You will find more information at: www.homedesignsense.com

5 New Project Decorating Tips

The following tips will give you a better handle on your decorating project and make it easier to keep track of everything.

1. Define Your Decorating Goal. Decide what you want to accomplish.
2. Define Your Budget. This is extremely important. You must have a budget in mind before purchasing anything. A budget will also help you avoid financial overspending and problems. You should add 10-20% for unexpected problems for remodeling.
3. Decide on Your Decorating Style. There are many styles to choose from and you should decide which one fits your personality and life style.

Home Design Sense has pages devoted to design styles...Design Styles. Stay away from trends unless you really love the style. Trends can cost you money when the trend fades and you decide you don't like it anymore.

4. Design A Floor Plan. this is helpful when trying to fit furniture in a room. You should first decide on a focal point (a piece of furniture, window, fireplace) so you can build from that area.

Lay the room out on a piece of paper and use the furniture measurements to help place the items. This helps so you don't have to return items that don't fit. Visit Home Design Sense to see how to lay out a simple floor plan...Floor Plan Layout.

5. Be Creative. This is perhaps the most important part of home decorating. Keep an open mind and think outside the creative box. Go to: www.homedesignsense.com

5 Room Layout and Furniture Spacing

Laying out a room design is easy. Figuring out how far away to place objects is dependent upon your specific circumstances of the rooms use. Here are a few suggestions to make the room more accessible to everyone. The following numbers are mostly for small rooms. Use your discretion and common sense.

1. Leave about 19" between your sofa and the coffee table.
2. 40" for chair pull back space around a dining table.
3. Busy traffic lanes should have at least 36" for people to get in and out and around furniture.
4. Allow 36" between kitchen island and other cabinets for ease of movement throughout the room.
5. The bed requires a space of 18-24" for changing the bedding.

Traffic throughout your home determines how much room is needed and these numbers are just a guide to help you plan your room layout.

Look for more information on layouts at: www.homedesignsense.com

18 Home Design & Decorating Tips

1. Don't obstruct beautiful views. Keep windows clear of obstructions and use minimal window treatments.
2. Choose prints that you can live with for a long time, because replacing them can be costly.
3. Adding some antiques to a room creates personality.
4. Wood furniture adds warmth to a room.
5. Consider your family and guests when choosing furniture. Some like soft, slouchy and others prefer more support. This is especially true with older people.
6. Mix and match furniture but keep the scale reasonably the same.
7. Unusual pieces add excitement to a dull room.
8. Don't use only small pieces in a large room.
9. Bright colors create visual excitement.
10. A coffee table should be just slightly lower than the sofa seat cushions.
11. When possible pair chairs and pictures to create symmetry.
12. Theme rooms (American, Swedish, English, etc) create atmosphere & personality.
13. Your home should reflect your personality.
14. The most important thing about a room is how you feel when you enter.
15. If a room looks too busy try taking away one piece of furniture.
16. Mix different furniture styles to reflect to owner's personal styles.
17. If you have a lot of art choose furnishings and fabrics that complement it.
18. Keep the furnishings in scale but add a larger one to create impact.

12 Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Whether your home is heated by gas, oil, or electricity, your hard-earned money and the earth's precious natural resources could literally be going out the window. Roughly two-thirds of your energy bill goes into heating spaces and half of that energy is wasted.

1. Insulate your basement, attic and integral garage. Put insulation above unheated spaces.
2. Insulate old water heaters and exposed hot water pipes. Wrapping the pipes could reduce your electric bill by as much as 20 dollars a year.
3. Turn the water heater down. Keep your hot water heating under a comfortable 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. Turn down the thermostat. Lowering the setting by 1 Celsius degree during the winter can save about 10 percent in energy use. Raising the air conditioner temperature by just a few degrees can reduce energy in the summer.
5. Install a programmable thermostat. You can set it to automatically control the temperature.
6. Change furnace air filters every few months. A dirty filter can block warm air.
7. Take advantage of natural heat and light. During the day, leave the blinds open to let the warmth of the sun in.
8. Close your window coverings at night. This will keep the heat in. If you have curtains or drapes, line them to keep the cold out.
9. Seal drafty windows. If you have single-pane windows, hang storm windows or seal them with plastic to keep the heat in. Caulk or weather strip any other openings.
10. Seal doors and close other openings. Feel a draft coming from your door? If you've already caulked and added weather stripping, consider putting a rolled up rug or towel in front of your door to stop the draft. Also, remember to seal the hatch to your attic, close your fireplace damper, and remove window air conditioning units. Heat could escape your house from there. You can find more at: www.homedesignsense.com

11. Use a humidifier. During the winter months, the air is very dry. Adding a humidifier to your home will cause cooler temperatures to feel warmer.

12. Turn on the ceiling fan. In the winter, reversing your ceiling fan will push warm air down.

Hopefully this information has helped you to achieve your decorating and design goals.

You can find lots of information about design and decorating at our website. Be sure to browse our huge reference library that has information on home improvement, landscaping, recipes and more at: www.homedesignsense.com

