

CONDO LIVING

Buying a new home is fun; decorating it is a thrill



PAUL SEMKULEY
**LIVING IN
STYLE**

Like most first time homeowners, buying a home can be stressful, exciting and possibly a daunting experience, as it is the one of, if not the biggest purchase of your life.

You plan on being in this home for a period of time, making some roots for you and your family. Homes have been selling at a stellar pace this spring and summer, many well over the asking price.

So where does this leave you trying furnish your new home or perhaps pick up those extra pieces of furniture and lighting, for those extra rooms that you now have?

The first step in decorating your new home is coming up with a style that best suits and reflects your personality and how you would like to look. It

is casual with a whimsical flare, eclectic yet chic, or refined and transitional?

Start looking in magazines to hone in on what you like and don't like, collecting them in a folder. All these ideas will help influence your decisions and where you will purchase your furniture.

Before you go out shopping, come prepared with measurements: size of the rooms, where the windows are placed, ceiling height, width of the doors and staircases. There is nothing worse than purchasing a sofa that won't fit through a doorway or up the stairs. Mistakes can be costly so make sure you have your measurements.

As an interior decorating and styling firm, there are many retailers that we like to source

from. Many of our preferred companies offer a wide range of product that will suit almost everybody's needs, tastes and budgets.

They offer great brand names such as Mitchell Gold, Kartell, Bernhardt, Blue Dot, Nuevo, Lee Industries, Vanguard, Barbara Barry, Ralph Lauren, as well as their own private label.

You can customize your fabrics on most of the upholstered goods or take inspiration from items already on the showroom floor; wood and metal finishes can be changed on some case-goods to ensure that you have continuity.

When it comes to lighting a room, it can either make or break it. You will need to consider whether it is task lighting or mood lighting. Some brand names that we like to specify are Robert Abbey, Baker, Hudson Valley, Hinkley, Curry, Arteriors and Schonbek.

Making a statement with a very cool or chic light fixture will definitely wow anyone coming into the room. It can be the jewel in the crown.

Introducing unique accessories, balance out how we as a styling firm, create a personal space for our clients. We like accessories to complement the rooms but also add either something totally unexpected or something that looks as if they have been collecting it for years.

These accessories, including pillows, are one of the easiest and most inexpensive ways to change the look of your rooms. Once you have created a foundation of good-looking furniture, you can change out your accessories for new and different seasonal vignettes.

Buying a new home is an exciting time in your life. Decorating it is even more thrilling. This extension of your personality is exemplified through out your home in everything thing you choose; from your colour scheme to your furniture and lighting, even right down to your hand towels and the soap.



The first step in decorating your new home is coming up with a style that best suits and reflects your personality.

Remember is supposed to be fun. If it isn't, hire a pro like ourselves. You'll be glad you did.

5 tips for your shopping experience

- Bring your floor plan with measurements and a tape measure.
- Bring fabric swatches and paint colour samples to coordinate with new items.
- Bring a camera and pictures of your existing furniture if you are using them.
- Bring along your inspiration folder to explain the look you are trying to achieve.
- Keep an open mind to suggestions from the retail professionals.
- Custom orders can take 4-12 weeks, so keep this in mind.

— Paul Semkuley is principal of Re:Source Lifestyle, a Toronto-based interior design firm. For more information, visit www.resourcelifestyle.com.



Once you have created a foundation of good-looking furniture, you can change out your accessories for new and different seasonal vignettes.



Introducing unique accessories leaves a balance between the style created by the design firm and having a personal space.