



## IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

**Have you ever wondered how beautiful rooms that designers create come together? It really takes an individual with a vision to bring it all together.**

An interior space is like a piece of art, where there are many layers; a portrait piece of art may use paint to bring a face to life, pieces of fabric that you know how they feel, or smell of the ocean air. A well-curated room or home uses furniture and furnishings to layer and keep you intrigued. It too, should tell a story. Having a fabulous sofa, side tables, a couple of lamps, freshly painted walls, some art (I hope), is still not enough to tell this story. It requires more thought to provoke the senses. It's all in the details.

When a client approaches us to help them with this conundrum, we look at everything they have and how they have placed it. It's not about re-inventing the "look" that they already have, it's about bringing them a new point of view.

### First Layer

As we walk through their space, I begin to get a sense of the scale and spatial positioning within. In my forethought, I kept thinking about colour flow and how it will impact the entire suite. With most condos and homes today being more open rather than divided by the formality of "rooms", having the right colour flow will make the space look and feel bigger than it actually is. That doesn't mean that you can't have a different colour somewhere else, it just needs to be complimentary.



## Second Layer

Lets ground the space with a fantastic area rug. With neutral upholstered furniture (and really any colour can be YOUR neutral), you can certainly add additional boldness and pattern to the room. Ultimately it is best to have all of the furniture on the rug, but sometimes you can cheat a little by placing the front legs of the sofa on or just behind the edge of the rug.

## Third Layer

First impressions count, so we like to propose to our clients to use wallpaper in an area that will create an instant buzz; the foyer or the first visual wall one would see when they enter a room. Look at all the elements of the space. If there is a detail that doesn't have any merit to your aesthetics (a chair rail) then it should be removed, which will allow the wallpaper to flow harmoniously.

## Fourth Layer

Now that we have colour, texture or pattern on the walls and floor, we now need to start bringing this in further detail; the fabrics of the furniture, drapery and decorative accessories. Perhaps in the area rug there is a colour that is a little hidden, but you love it and would like to see more of it. Without tipping the colour palette, it can be an unexpected shot of colour that no one would expect. It would be great to take that colour and start to introduce into the piping on a decorative pillow, or the trim on the leading edge of your drapery panels. These subtleties are now what really starts to bring the entire room together.

## Fifth Layer

Accessories and artwork are the final lasting impressions. Using these items in vignettes can be unique and are meant to be a further tiny curated "story". They can be of the same colour palette of the room, with a personal touch as they are an expression of you and your style. Using a myriad of objects that work together, make for a cohesive grouping: vases, candlesticks, lamps, bowls, books, picture frames, artwork and found objects (personal treasures, a magnifying glass, a sculpture etc.). Formal and traditional rooms should be balanced and symmetrical. Casual and modern rooms lend themselves better to asymmetrical groupings.



Being successful with details and decorating can take some time and energy. Like clothing, you would layer it with other pieces of clothing, jewelry and accessories to make a fabulous statement. When decorating your home, you also want it to look spectacular and a reflection of who you are. It to should be layered with details and embellishments within your furniture, fabrics and furnishings. If you're good there can be a few stories. If your really good, you will have so many stories that you will have all of your friends guessing for a very, very long time. 📺



**Paul Semkuley** is a Toronto-based Interior Stylist designer and Principal of Re:Source Lifestyles. He combines his love of art, fashion and design to offer a unique styling and design firm. throughout Toronto and the GTA. The firm works with incorporating client's personal collections and treasures in unique unpredictable ways.

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