

MAKING YOUR PLACE YOUR OWN



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Many of us have fond memories of living at home with our parents, and getting the “our house, our rules” speech and being grounded for painting the walls a horrid colour to our parents’ dismay. We couldn’t wait to get out into the real world and do it “our” way. “Its only paint,” we’d retort, but this somehow never appeased the folks.

Some of us were fortunate to move out sooner than others, usually to university or college, but it still meant we were living under strict policy – dorms (and at fraternity or sorority houses, anything goes!) or a cheap rental with a landlord who was so feared that you didn’t dare risk painting the walls any colour other than beige. So, we let the walls be neutral and focused instead on the furniture. Not a bad approach, in my opinion.

Interestingly enough, in today’s decorating world having neutral walls can actually be the right thing to do – especially for those afraid of making a colour commitment. Think of your home as a blank canvas, and you can inject colour, and create whatever and however you want, using your furniture, artwork, accessories and rugs as the medium. These all are an opportunity to add pattern, colour and styles, harmonizing a beautiful and unique space.

As you begin the decorating process, start by establishing the larger pieces – the sofa and area rug.

The sofa should be proportionate to the room. A clean, sleek shape with narrow arms suits a small room, and doesn’t waste space. I like to use a neutral fabric – something that will wear well and anchor the room. Accessorizing with patterned and solid pillows in a complementary colour scheme is sure to bring excitement to the sofa and space.

Area rugs can also be your beginning point of reference for your living area, especially if there is a particular pattern and colour that you are fond of. I prefer the use of rugs over carpets, as they come in various sizes, colours and designs, but they also allow you to show the surrounding flooring.

The same thought process should also be used within other areas of your space: beds and night stands need to be proportionate to one another and within the bedroom, the scale of lamps to the size of the table and room. The same goes for dining spaces. However, as more condos and lofts are offering a more casual setting, you may forgo the dining table and chairs, and simply use stools at the kitchen counter, which you allow you to have more “living” space.

Once these key elements have been found, the rest of the decorating will fall into place. It can be taken to an eclectic mix of aesthetics and styles, or a very minimalist, monochromatic, sleek and chic point of view. Whatever you choose, it will truly be yours... Finally!