



defining DETAILS

Fashion-forward decor
that is runway-ready

BY PAUL SEMKULEY

Ralph Lauren, Sarah Jessica Parker, Anna Wintour, John Galliano, Karl Lagerfeld and even Steven Tyler, all share one common detail. They are styled and accessorized to the hilt and they possess an unbelievable foundation of clothing. Some are chic and elegant, others more on the cutting edge and bohemian. But it is with the aid of accessories that each person or their fashion collection creates beauty and individuality that carries their style stamp out for each season of the year.

Decor, much like a clothing collection, involves colour as an integral part of the project. Because it is the very foundation that we build our client's project on, it needs to flow and have continuity. With colour, complementary tones and shades further allow you to frame out the desired atmosphere.

These tones also provide you with an opportunity to play up, or down, the scale of pattern and texture in the fabrics, as well as with wood finishes in furniture and case goods. These selections set the stage for how the finishing details will come to life.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT

Just like the first model walking down the runway to open up a collection, the equivalent decor opportunity for successful first impressions lies within the entrance of the home. For a dramatic effect, wallpaper in an entrance creates an

instant buzz. But wallpaper shouldn't be limited to the walls. Use a reflective paper on your ceilings to bring extra sparkle to the room and light fixture. A simple light fixture can become spectacular.

Other than papering the ceiling, paint in a contrasting colour will bring something new and edgy to the space. To keep it simple, install a magnificent light fixture. It's just like a beautiful hat adorning a stunning outfit.

A WELL-CURATED HOME

Use decor and furnishings, such as artwork and trims, to inspire and intrigue you while you're in the room. In fashion, one would layer with other pieces of clothing, jewelry and accessories to make a fabulous statement. When decorating your home, it should be layered with details and embellishments within your furniture, fabrics and finishings.

It is ultimately the finishing touches that tell the style story and take a room from basic to spectacular. Even if your style is super-clean and modern, minimalism may seem like less in a space, but look closer—the finishing touches are still there. Maybe the contrast in stitching or the textures of the fabrics, or the unbelievable art collection you have acquired over the years and the need for simplicity of a neutral white wall to showcase it on. Whatever it may be, it should be thought-provoking.



TRENDS

Unlike clothing and buying the hottest item of the season, you won't necessarily redecorate your home every month, season, or year. Although I wish we could like Auntie Mame!

When you have a great foundation to build and explore upon, it allows you to add extras or trends that you see in the showrooms, galleries and shops. What starts to round out a home are all the personal touches that you bring to it. Changing out pillows and accessories can do a myriad of tricks to make a room fresh and new.

So you don't have to be a fashion maven or rock star to have style. Get to know what you like and take the time to try new things and mix them up. Sometimes, small little imperfections are the reason a space looks right. Not everything needs to be picture perfect. ♦

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