

TOP THREE INTERIOR DESIGN TIPS



Beautiful Habitat

Design & Decoration



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Beautiful Habitat's Top 3 Design Tips

I'd HATE to be called a one-trick pony. And I pride myself on customized designs, which are unique to my clients. However, I've been designing customized rooms for my clients for nearly a decade and there are some go-to "rules," design tricks and elements that I incorporate into many design solutions... because they work! Here are my top 3 decor tips.

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1. LET YOUR ARTWORK BREATHE

Many people are quick to put an 8x10 photo in an 8x10 frame. The result is underwhelming. Framing and matting your artwork can dramatically change it and can correct issues with scale and proportion.

Mats around artwork let the artwork breathe and look more interesting than just a frame alone. By giving space around the photo, painting, or print, the art and subject become more of a focal point and more interesting. The mat is also a great way to add scale and presence to your artwork.





Tip: Make your artwork the "right" size or shape with a mat

This room demonstrates what I call "right sizing" your artwork. A photo in a horizontal/landscape orientation has been re-framed to be a vertical/portrait piece of artwork.

When seen in the full scope of the room, the importance of this change becomes more evident. The wall space between the two windows really calls for a vertical piece of art. This clever solution not only changes the orientation to better fit the room, but the extra length on the mat and frame fills the wall space perfectly.



2. YOUR ARTWORK DOESN'T NEED TO MATCH YOUR SOFA... OR ANYTHING ELSE

Some people can get really hung up on artwork matching the whole room. It doesn't need to. Art is its own wonderful element and expression in a room.

Artwork can vary from the room in both style and colors. For example, using contemporary, abstract, or even humorous art in a traditional room makes the room feel less formal and more approachable.

The room below was rather formal and stuffy, not representative of the homeowners. A whimsical painting, "Spider Moo" makes the room less serious and is a fabulous conversation starter.



Tip: your artwork is a personal expression. Choose pieces that appeal to you and have fun with it

Art, matching or not, is a perfect source of inspiration for a room design and color scheme. Often, I like to pull colors from a piece of art to repeat in accessories or the wall color. But the art does not have to match the other pieces. Beautiful, bold and interesting combinations can be created when it doesn't.



If the art were matched to the room color scheme in this particular room, it would likely be blue and white. Instead, the artwork is full of unrelated colors, which adds energy and youthfulness to the room.

The art pieces also do not match each other and are of different mediums and styles.

How was this look achieved successfully? The frames were kept simple and coordinated. The frames are all in the same simple design and in only three colors. This creates continuity in the whole art collection.

I'm not saying you should NEVER match art to the rest of the room. A fully coordinated room can be equally beautiful and dynamic, as seen below. And artwork can be the major inspiration from which to build a whole color scheme.

What I am saying is to not be rigidly attached to a matching scheme. Choose artwork because you love it. And when you love it, it will always work in your room.



3. DRAPERY AND SOFT WINDOW TREATMENTS COMPLETE A ROOM

The word "drapery" can scare people, especially my clients with more modern design preferences. I promise you, drapery need not be old fashioned or floral. Drapery is the sexy finishing touch to so many rooms. Using modern fabrics, drapery is a great way to update and soften a room, while adding color and pattern. Often my clients have added functional window treatments, such as blinds or shutters. When they hire me, they tell me the room "doesn't feel right" or feels "unfinished." Decorative window treatments are most often the perfect finishing touch that I add to these rooms. And my clients are thrilled with the results.



Fabric window treatments are not limited to drapery panels. Roman shades offer a modern, streamlined look while adding texture or pattern.



Tip: Fabric window Treatments are a great way to soften and "finish" a room.



See this fully decorated dining room before and after we installed modern drapery panels.

The addition of drapery softens the hard lines of the windows and really finishes the room.



About Beautiful Habitat

Tennille Wood is the CEO of Beautiful Habitat and a nationally recognized interior designer who has built her business around creating beautiful, functional and unique residential spaces for busy people; spaces that speak volumes without saying a word.

A natural artist and creative, Tennille has had a life-long passion for interior design. She received her education in interior design at The Chelsea College of Art and Design in London. Tennille also holds a BA in Communications and (half) an MBA, which add to her uncanny ability to unearth her client's unique needs after just one conversation – and follow through with precision and professionalism.

Today, Tennille is located in Denver, CO, where she's listed as one of the top 15 Interior Designers. But even more solid is her unwavering passion to design, which has to date garnered her several notable accolades.



Photo Sources

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Let Your Artwork Breathe

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Your Artwork Doesn't Need to Match Your Sofa... Or Anything Else

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