

DESIGN FOCUS with Randall Waddell

Secrets to DESIGN Success

Designing and decorating a home, using colour, pattern, texture or art and accessories are the secrets of the trade that only the professionals know.

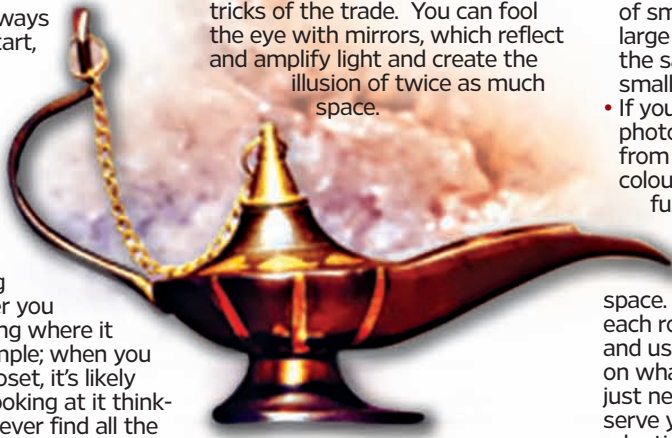
You may not be ready for a major renovation, but designers know that small alterations can make a big difference if properly executed; and some are just simple organisation and editing of what you already have in the space.

Organising is always a great place to start, because you can start that project immediately and this helps edit the over-use of "things" throughout the home which gives the added benefit of creating more storage after you have put everything where it belongs. For example; when you open your linen closet, it's likely you stand there looking at it thinking that you will never find all the pieces for the sheet-set you bought six weeks before. That's because it's all piled in there with all the other sets from over the past decade. A simple solution is to take the sheets and pillow cases and put them all into one of the pillow cases of the set. Do this with all your sets and soon enough that linen closet will be opened and closed in no time flat.

Design has guiding principles of scale and proportion, colour, pattern and lighting. These are

essential tools that a designer uses to create living spaces of your dreams. A room's palette should underscore its architecture, while its pattern should add visual intrigue. The combination of the two should make you feel at ease in the space.

Small rooms can be striking - especially when you apply a few tricks of the trade. You can fool the eye with mirrors, which reflect and amplify light and create the illusion of twice as much space.



Some other secrets to follow:

- Add under-cabinet lighting to your kitchen, it will bring your backsplash to life.
- To help create balance and scale, use symmetry - pairs of pictures or chairs.
- In large rooms include enough upholstered pieces to keep echo to a minimum.
- The view - if you have a great one, install surfaces and furnishings made of materials like steel,

stone, wood and glass which typically reflect the colours and textures of the landscape.

- Use furniture in the correct proportion and scale to the room, steal pieces from other rooms and mix it up a bit. Do this periodically and your home will never be boring.
- Do not fill large rooms with lots of small furniture pieces. Use large furniture and less of them - the same applies in reverse for small scale rooms.
- If you have a passion for art and photographs, then take your cue from them, they can dictate wall colours, fabric textures and even furniture placement in a room.

I hope some of the above gave insight into how a designer thinks of a space. Always remember that each room has its own personality and usually rooms are quite clear on what they want to be like, you just need to listen. Let the kitchen serve your family by carefully adapting its layout to accommodate your needs, adding materials and appliances that are hardworking as they are pleasing to the eye. Bathrooms are places to get away from it all, so make sure yours includes soothing elements. Your bedroom, a refuge, should embrace calming colours, textures, furnishings and fabrics that relax you. In the end, the only perfect house is the one that is right for you - not a house that is someone else's idea of how you should live.



facebook.com/homeworkdesignstudio



randall@homeworktt.com



http://www.homeworktt.com