



# SPACE

...the final frontier...or is it!?

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Maybe Captain Kirk of the Starship Enterprise wasn't so far off with those words of wisdom...but space to an Interior Designer is not the final frontier, it's the first! Every space, large or small presents the opportunity to reveal great things once you add a bit of design rules and a bit of fun.

Typically, as an Interior Designer I find myself constantly thinking about "form follows function" – does it really? Does it have to? Rules in general are made to create a path and a process for how we live and the same is applicable in design – we can use those rules, bend them, break a few and we would find that a space can reveal itself perfectly when we've reached the final frontier of a project.

It all starts with understanding the space and what the client wants and hopes to achieve vs what the space will allow. It's at this stage that the spatial planning becomes important – once you start to plan, the scale and proportions of the room will let you know what will be allowed in. This will help decide what furniture, fabric, paintings, mirrors, rugs and personal objects can be included. "Home" is a sacred place for seeking comfort and refuge from the outside world and getting all the elements to fit in must be correct – this is the goal on any residential project and having the ergonomics of the space correct will help the residents enjoy and relish being in the space.

So, once you begin the planning of the space, take the cues of "form follows function" and apply them to the integral pieces that fill a room. For example, if it's

the living room, the seating will be most important – width, depth, length, arm height, back height, etc.; if it's the bedroom, the bed is the most important – a single, double, queen, king size would be your common considerations. Integral furniture pieces relevant to the space would be your first consideration and then you can build other pieces around those; such as side tables, standing lamps, ottomans, chairs. Of course these will all be dependent on the room or rooms for which you are planning.

Most interior design projects are a voyage of discovery, for the client, the space and the designer as well. Designing a room involves balancing the ideal and the real, discovering a happy medium between what you imagine and what exists. From evaluating the core architectural structure (shell) of a room, to selecting colours and arranging furniture, to choosing and placing final artistic touches – the goal regardless of style will usually lead to creating rooms of elegance and distinction. There are many questions on the journey to the final frontier, but when it comes to your home the voyage will be one of discovery and learning, as much about the space itself as the person that calls the space – home.