

Lavish Interiors

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Outlive the fads: how to create a timeless space.

These days, being timeless is not just about having style. We want things to last and look good despite the “trend of the week” because re-designing an entire living space can be expensive.

To help you maintain a home that’s fashionable, timeless, reflective of you AND affordable, consider the following tips.

Do your homework.

You can’t create a “timeless” space if you don’t know what makes a timeless space. To help generate ideas, study interior design magazines, books, and websites. Research the known masters like Frank Lloyd Wright, William Morris, and Barbara Barry. Looking through these works will help you generate ideas for your own living areas. You’ll figure out which design styles appeal to you, and won’t try to create a room that doesn’t fit your personality or living needs.



Blend styles and periods.

Believe it or not, the package “living room sets” they sell at major retailers are not necessarily reflective of timeless design. Most interior decorators will tell you that the most interesting and timeless rooms blend a combination of furniture, fabrics, and artwork from different eras and styles. For instance, in the picture to the right, the homeowner has paired a very traditional couch with a mid-century type coffee table and futuristic floor lamp. Don’t be afraid to be creative and blend styles--the results are fantastic.

(Image from roomzaar.com)

Architecture is important.

Before you start designing, consider the architecture of your room. Sometimes, you’ll have to hide flaws. Other times, you’ll want to play up architectural features. Either way, if you do a little investigating of your space before you jump into the design, you’ll have some parameters within which to work. You’ll know, for instance, if your room can handle a large sofa, or if your windows need

special treatments. If you're still in the building process, you might consider speaking to an interior designer--combining the insight of both the designer and builder will help create a cohesive, well-designed space.

Choose major pieces wisely.

If you're getting ready to purchase a large piece (like a couch or dining room table), choose wisely. For instance, although you really like that lime green couch now, you might not be so keen on it next season. To compromise, purchase large furniture pieces in neutral colors and accessorize with bold patterns, hot colors of the season, or that lime green that you really like now. A neutral furniture palette provides a strong design base and a lot of flexibility: you can change the look simply by adding new pillows or throws.

It's about you.

No matter what advice I give, you'll hate your interior design if it's not reflective of you. Ultimately good design is the combination of basic design principles and your personality. If you don't like your room, what's the point?

Timeless design allows you to remain fashionable regardless of the current trend or latest fad. By implementing the simple steps above, you'll not only save a lot of money, but you'll create a personalized, classic space that will give you enjoyment for years to come.