

Interior Design



If you have just moved house, or are about to refurbish your home from scratch -where do you start?! Sometimes it is easier to decorate if you have to work around an existing suite or carpet, but having a blank canvas can throw you into a turmoil of decision-making confusion.

It is tempting when decorating to move swiftly to the stage that people usually enjoy the most, such as choosing paints or fabrics, deciding on curtain headings or hunting for a piece of furniture. However, the first rule when refurbishing a room is to be patient, and really look at the room. Consider how you are going to use it - you may want to create a practical living room that doubles up as a guest room with a sofa bed, or simply a room to escape to with quiet space and tranquil colours. Making this decision will give you the basis of the style or mood you want to create.

Once you have decided upon the style of the room, consider the space at your disposal. Do a floor plan and position sofas and furniture you are considering using, to make sure everything fits to save any nasty surprises later. Make sure there's room to walk through heavy traffic areas. Colour is the next consideration. Look at the natural light when choosing a wall colour and if the room is too dark make sure there are enough sockets for occasional lighting before you decorate. At this stage an interior designer is useful to help you consolidate your own ideas or suggest new ones.

Buying a sofa is probably the most difficult item in the room to commit yourself to - you have to sit on so many to find the perfect one. It is particularly difficult if you have to look for one covered in exactly the right fabric that co-ordinates with the curtain fabric you've set your heart on, so choose your sofa first, then look for a carpet and curtain fabric. Once that decision has been made, everything else seems to fall into place. The character of a home evolves gradually as you add layers of your own personality to it. Every aspect - from the paint on the walls, to the way a curtain is hung or an object is placed, contributes to its overall style and atmosphere, so take time to build your perfect room so that it is a reflection of your personality and your lifestyle. ■



Wendy Collins
Interior Transformations

