

DISCOVER YOUR
UNIQUE
DÉCOR STYLE

HOW TO DECORATE YOUR SPACE
WITH CONFIDENCE



SANDY@ RE-STYLE INTERIORS

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ReStyle Interiors

Re-Style Interiors combines a unique blend of contemporary and modern style with the warmth of casual elegance so busy professionals and entrepreneurs can live their design dreams!

Take the free [“What’s Your Decor Personality?”](#) quiz. DIYers will love Sandy’s [DIY Makeover Kit](#). Get lots of great Design Tips too!

Restyle To Tiny Living

Sandy is obsessed with all things “tiny home” and maybe you are too! Here you’ll discover tiny home living ideas, design tips, photo inspiration and more to inspire you in your journey.

She can help if your BIG dreams are running into TINY dilemmas that you’re ready to have a pro help you solve. [Let’s Talk Tiny!](#)

PatriotApproved.us

What makes a creative, entrepreneur, interior designer take a life path left fork? Waking up one day and realizing the country we all love and respect is being systematically undermined by forces both within and outside our borders.

So instead of just sitting on the sidelines, Sandy’s goal is to share [valuable information and awesome products](#) with other patriots that are approved and used by her, while creating beautiful and functional spaces for freedom seekers looking to design a space that fits their lifestyle.

What Clients Say About Sandy...

After numerous negative experiences with different designers, I was skeptical about trying again. I'm so glad I reached out to Sandy, owner of Restyle Interiors. She truly listened to what our needs, style and budget was. She was very creative in using furnishings and decor that we already had. Then she helped select new items to complement and complete several rooms, always keeping in mind the budget. We're very happy with the results and working with Sandy was truly a pleasure.

Amy Z.

(See more testimonials on back page)

When it's time for your next decorating project, I'm here to help. Find out about [Your Virtual Room Fixer](#) Consultations today!



Re-Style Interiors

INTERIOR DESIGN
BY SANDY

VIRTUAL DESIGN
CONSULTATION

- EXPERT ADVICE
- IDEAS
- INSPIRATION

Selecting the right design elements can be frustrating and time consuming. A personalized consultation removes the stress while guiding you to an awesome interior!

Eliminate the Pressure!
Decorate with Confidence!

[CLICK HERE
TO SET UP YOUR PERSONALIZED
CONSULTATION](#)

For Mom and Dad

As far back as I can remember, my favorite past time (other than climbing trees!) was moving furniture around in the living room of our vintage 1960s suburban tract home. Our family residence was simple, yet well-loved and taken care of. Even though the living room lacked a distinct décor style, it was definitely the incubator where I developed my passion for interior design.

The furniture in that room was moved around more times than I can count and it was always a fun adventure. I would carefully sketch out a rudimentary drawing vaguely representative of a floor plan, then my sister and I would execute the design by pushing the sofa and chairs around on the dark green carpeting, moving the coffee table and end tables, and re-positioning the lamps. Artwork was a bit scarce but we made do with what we had. The one thing that never moved was the TV. Back in those days, televisions were very heavy. Encased in a cabinet, it was tethered to one specific place on the wall where the antenna hook up was located! I smile when I think back on those days.

My parents were so supportive of this crazy addiction I had to moving things around. I don't remember ever hearing them say, put that back, or what are you doing in there. My parents gave us a wonderful place to grow up and always provided what we needed. It might not have been what we "wanted," however, as the saying goes, we tend to not appreciate those things that ultimately are treasured the most.

I cherish those times and thank my mom and dad for all their sacrifices along the way.

About the Author



Hello, I'm Sandy. I created [Re-Style Interiors](#) to share my passion for great design and spread the belief that a well-appointed, functional space should be accessible to everyone no matter what the budget. My work has been published in Orange Coast Magazine, and you can view projects and ideabooks on my award-winning [Designer Pro site](#) on Houzz.

As an interior design expert, my commitment is to continually provide best practices for exceptional designs as well as ideas and inspiration to get your creative juices flowing. This includes both interior and exterior spaces, as I believe all are inter-connected and should flow together cohesively.

My [blog](#) reflects a personal fondness for mid-century modern and contemporary design. However, the guiding theme is to provide ongoing conversation on the timeless qualities found in clean, classic design.

Re-Style Interiors was founded in 2004 and represents the realization of my lifelong dream to express my creative talents and share those abilities with people every day. I transform spaces by connecting with you on a creative level, reflecting your lifestyle and the inner you.

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Introduction

Discover your personal style

For many people the word “design” is intimidating and elusive. It’s like that thing you can’t quite put your finger on. It reminds me of a story about a client who was virtually paralyzed about how to decorate her living room. Not knowing where to start, she decided not to do anything. Thankfully she found me, and the rest is history, as they say!

Do you struggle with making design decisions? Are you always doubting your decorating choices? If you are looking for answers to your design dilemmas, you are in the right place.

Sometimes, it’s as basic as “Where do I put the sofa?” Many times people hesitate making a change to their space. They are afraid it will look worse than when they started, because they don’t have a clear vision of the design style they want to achieve.

This book takes the fear and frustration out of tackling a design project and teaches you some simple and fun techniques so you can not only enjoy decorating, but also feel confident with your design choices. You will learn about the 10 Commandments of Good Design and how to apply them in all of your decorating projects. You will also receive step-by-step guidance on how to plan out a space before you start spending money on furniture and accessories. This tip alone can save you thousands of dollars by avoiding design pitfalls before they happen.

You will learn what the major design styles and trends are so you can better understand what motif makes you feel most comfortable and confident. Surprisingly, the reason why most people fail in their decorating attempts is because they aren’t aware of their own personal style. They try to re-create the look from a magazine only to realize later that the space falls short of their expectation.

In these pages I will show you, in simple terms, how to discover your personal décor style and how to decorate any space with confidence!

What's Your Style?

*A unique, cohesive and personal look,
reflective of your lifestyle*

So what is a design style anyway? The concept of style is really just understanding what type of theme or motif makes you feel good. For example, you may be a person who loves a formal or traditional look vs. someone else that really likes casual and contemporary.

Having a clear design style starts with knowing *what makes you feel comfortable*. I like the analogy of a clothes closet. When you look in your closet, hopefully you are surrounded by shoes, clothes, and accessories that you like and that you feel good in. And we all know what happens to those things we don't like to wear; they get lost and forgotten. So it goes with your decorating style. You want to know what your style is so you can surround yourself with furnishings, accessories and artwork that not only make you feel good and are comfortable, but also create a beautiful space that everyone can enjoy.

What does "style" actually mean?

It is a unique, cohesive and personal look, reflective of your lifestyle.

Before I get into all the cool decorating stuff, it's important to know how to define your decorating style. The first step in discovering your unique style is to look at design magazines and catalogs, and to search sites like [Houzz](#) for home design and decorating ideas. These sources will help you develop a feel for what home décor styles you like and don't like. Pretty soon you will notice that you keep going back to certain "looks" because they resonate with you personally.

You will likely find your unique style in one or more of these eight (8) popular design influences:

- Modern/Contemporary
- Mid-Century Modern
- Urban Industrial
- Scandinavian
- Rustic Farmhouse
- Nautical/Coastal
- Shabby Chic
- Bohemian/Eclectic

Modern/Contemporary

You might like a contemporary style of decorating if you like to keep current with styles, or simply enjoy things that have modern, clean lines. While some people think that modern interiors are cold and minimalist, on the contrary, contemporary interiors are comfortable and welcoming, uncluttered and light with pops of color. Simplicity, subtle sophistication and texture are the hallmarks of contemporary style decorating. Modern interiors showcase the space rather than things by focusing on color, architecture, and shape. Contemporary interiors are sleek and fresh.

Mid-Century Modern

The mid-1900s produced some of the most iconic pieces in modern design. Mid-century modern design is characterized by refined lines, minimalist silhouettes, and natural shapes. The mid-century modern masters defined creative ways to use new materials like molded plastic, plywood, and aluminum in industrial design. These pieces are highly versatile and can complement a myriad of design styles. The “Mad Men” series set design is a perfect example of the mid-century modern design aesthetic.

Urban Industrial

This is a look that harkens back to the turn-of-the-century industrial era. It emphasizes a liberal use of exposed steel with distressed wooden elements, frequently complemented by exposed brick walls (i.e. the urban loft). The general feel is to use old style fixtures that are updated for modern times. Urban industrial decor is often rustic and mature.

Scandinavian

An off-shoot of the mid-century modern movement, Scandinavian design introduced a sense of warmth and nature to the otherwise minimalist look. It is described as “Hygge,” the Scandinavian word for a mood of coziness and comfortable conviviality with feelings of wellness and contentment. Featuring gentle contours, playful accent colors, and a balance of engineered and organic materials, Scandinavian furniture is simple, contemporary, and functional.

Modern Farmhouse

Farmhouse décor is a modern approach to cabin-inspired interior design. It is transitional in style with some traditional design elements mixed in. Farmhouse furniture is characterized by distressed wood and soft upholstery fabric. The farmhouse aesthetic encompasses the classic relaxed yet well-appointed feel. Picture the Magnolia House, Chip and Joanna décor style.

Nautical/Coastal

Warm, relaxing, and positive. Nautical décor (also referred to as coastal or cottage décor) reflects the beach house spirit. This style is based on a foundation of white or sand colors, with blue as the primary accent color. Nautical décor incorporates unfinished wood in its tables or chairs, combined with chic linen upholstery for sofas and lounging chairs. Decorative accents are reminiscent of the shoreline. Examples include seashells in clear jars, jute ropes, rowing oars, sailboats, navigational maps and more.

Shabby Chic

Think flea market finds! Shabby chic emphasizes vintage elements with an aged appearance. Distressed wood and old pieces covered in milk paint to show signs of wear and tear are very popular. Decorative accents should be soft and warm with a relaxed feel. The classic shabby chic colors are white, off-white and pastel, however, pops of color add depth and definition to the overall style.

Bohemian/Eclectic

This décor truly captures the carefree and adventurous spirit of the avant-garde lifestyle. It includes a rich infusion of patterns and vibrant colors, especially red and purple tones. The Bohemian style looks a bit messy but with purposeful intent. Multiple layers of textiles add a warm ambience. Look for accessories that possess an ethnic or nomadic vibe such as Moroccan, Southwestern or tribal inspired designs. Wood, animal hide, and metallic accents added to your space will complement this style as well.

Now that you are armed with a sense of what the different design styles are, I would encourage you to gather up at least 10 or more photos of interior living spaces (living rooms, family rooms, bedrooms, dens) that you are attracted to and place them in a folder. If you are looking on the [Houzz](#) website, you can place all your photos in an Ideabook that you create in your own account. One by one, start to analyze the photos and highlight your favorite things in each photo. Look for details such as:

- Wall color or wallpaper treatment
- Style of furniture, how much furniture in the space
- Flooring, hard surface or carpet
- Window treatments
- Style of Lighting
- Overall use of color in the space, monochromatic vs. complementary color scheme

- High or low ceiling height
- Exposed beam or drywall ceiling

Make a list of all the design elements that you liked in the various photos. Get as detailed as possible. If you like wood floors, make note of the color and shape. Are they dark, light, wide plank, narrow plank, are they actually porcelain (faux wood) tile planks? If you liked a wall color you can usually find out the name of the color by looking in the back of the magazine under “resources,” or if you are on [Houzz](#), some of the photos may contain tags. These tags are pointed on objects and contain a description of the specific object. Write down the style of furniture you like. Is it modern, shabby chic, Scandinavian, or maybe mid-century modern? Go through your photos and add as many design elements as you can to your list. Don't leave out the architectural built-in details that you found appealing. For example, you may not be planning to redo your fireplace right now, but you can keep your design inspiration in that folder to revisit another time. Maybe you saw a built-in bookcase or a wall panel installation you liked. Make sure these details get added to your list.

Okay, let's stop for a minute and just admire the fact that you are well on your way to identifying your personal design style! Don't worry about having too much or too little on your list. You are doing great!

Once you have created the list you should start to feel a particular décor style appearing consistently. Go back and reference the eight (8) popular design influences and see where you best fit in within these style groups. You may realize that your unique style falls into a couple of these design categories. Not to worry, that is very common.

For example, you may like the modern farmhouse look, but also lean towards the shabby chic feel. You can combine elements of both styles, which helps to make your motif even more unique! Take that list you created and proudly write the name of your personal décor style at the top of the sheet. This is the “blueprint” you will follow as we move forward learning about the various decorating techniques. I

suggest you keep this list with your favorite photos so you can go back and reference the folder anytime.

There is one important point I would like to make at this time.

YOUR DÉCOR STYLE MAY CHANGE OVER TIME!

This is completely normal! We are all human, and our tastes do change from time to time. That is why it's important to keep your folder updated as design trends change or you see a different style you like. Think of it as a dynamic chronology of your décor style journey.

Remember how in vogue an avocado kitchen was back in the 1970s. It was all the rage, right? Now we chuckle just thinking about the color of those appliances.

Now that you have stopped laughing, I think you should give yourself a big “high five” for your effort so far!

*You now have a clear picture of your **unique design style!***

Let's Get Decorating!

Inspiration + Vision = Great Design

The following chapters are a road map of sorts providing you with an easy-to-understand knowledge base designed to invigorate your senses and build your decorating confidence. With each design tip and technique, know that you are solidifying your own “how to” guide that will lead you through all your future design projects. Now, let’s get this party going!

I believe great design starts with a simple formula.

Inspiration + Vision = Great Design

Inspiration comes to us in many ways. It is the artistic spark, triggered from an idea that fuels our vision to create something beautiful.

“The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas.”

-Linus Pauling

That quote is so true!

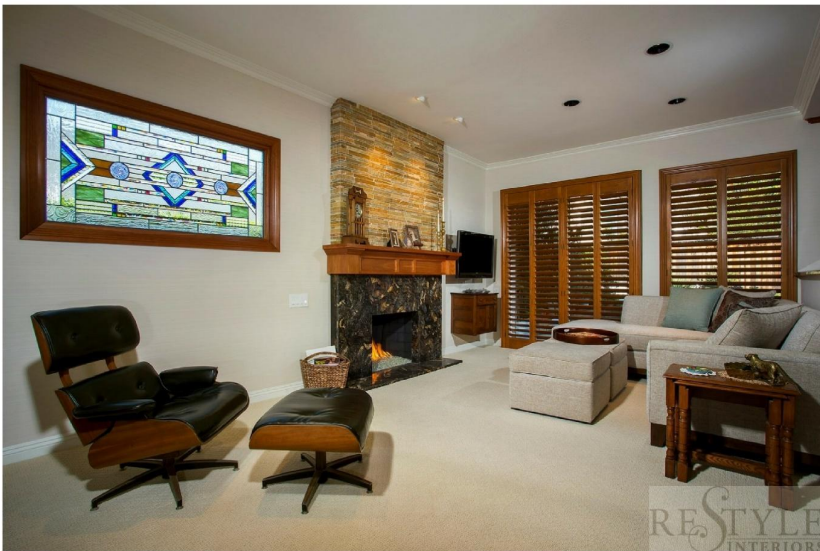
The next time you feel totally lost or stumped on a decorating project, take a minute and just start letting your mind conjure up all kinds of thoughts about your space. Like the proverbial brainstorm exercise at work where everyone shouts out ideas. Don’t be surprised if you suddenly get a design inspiration for your room and the next thing you know, you have a vision of the whole new space.

Yes, it can really happen for you, just that simply.

I recall one project where the homeowners couldn’t figure out what to do with their dated family room. They called me in for help and we started talking about what they liked. It was clear they had a fondness for antiques, as I saw several furniture pieces in the space along with a midcentury classic Eames chair and ottoman. I quickly

noticed their beautiful kitchen just off the family room. I mentioned the kitchen and found out they had remodeled it a few years back. After admiring the architectural detail in the cabinetry and the distinctive shaker style cabinet doors I immediately had a vision for their family room. Mid-century modern with a Frank Lloyd Wright twist!

We extended the design motif from the kitchen into the family room creating a classic and cohesive space that emanates the new design aesthetic. My clients were so thrilled with the design plan. For the first time in years, they could have friends over and entertain with confidence in their stunning new space!



To review:

The inspiration for the new design came from the style of the cabinetry in the kitchen and the vision was to wrap the family room in architectural details reminiscent of the Frank Lloyd Wright movement.

Another way you can develop your unique decor style is by creating a design that echoes your lifestyle.

One of my clients called and told me about a home that had just been purchased. After walking through the property, it was clear we were working with a vintage 1970s home that was for the most part, in its original condition. What made this project exciting was the “bones” of the home. I knew we were looking at architectural details reminiscent of the mid-century modern aesthetic.

Knowing that my client had a carefree, clean and simple lifestyle, it was clear that this home would be designed in a modern aesthetic with hints of mid-century architecture. When choosing a modern theme, the floors are most commonly covered in a large format tile. The furniture is sparse, yet planned out to complement the architecture of the space. Think about clean, straight lines accompanied by textural elements to soften the space. Keep accessories to a minimum and choose a color story that leads with one dominant color (usually a lighter shade) with two complementary color tones to add balance and interest to the space.



Are you ready to try this technique?

Let's imagine we are sitting in the room you are wanting to work on. For this example, we'll assume it's a living room and is furnished with dated pieces from your previous home. You want to update the space but have no idea how to begin.

First off, take a look around the room and determine what furniture pieces you would like to keep and what is leaving the space. You may have a favorite chair that is staying but the sofa has to go. This is also the time to consider updating your case pieces. Those are the side tables, console and coffee table, etc. Look around at the lighting. Are your lamps looking a little sad? Do you even have any table or floor lamps? If not, you will definitely be adding some lighting to your new design.

This is also the prime time to declutter the space! Remove all the extraneous accessories, doodads, dust collectors, and miscellaneous stuff. Now you should be able to see the "bones" of the room. Take a look around and what do you see? Is this living room connected to a dining space or other adjacent room? If so, you need to keep that in mind. Also, is there a fireplace in the living room? If so, excellent. You have your focal point. What do the window treatments look like? Can they be freshened up or do you want to replace them? Now look at the walls. Is it time to repaint or are you happy with the color and just need to focus on new furnishings? If painting the whole room is not in the budget, consider painting just one accent wall. This works very well, especially if you don't have a built-in focal point like a fireplace. Having a neutral color scheme on your walls can be a blessing since adding one accent wall color is your chance to brighten up the space with a more personal touch. Lastly, take a look at the floor. Do you have carpet or a hard surface flooring? Can the carpets be cleaned or the wood floor polished? Or do you need to replace the flooring?

The reason you take the time to look around your room first is so you can establish a working budget. It is very important to have a project cost established before you start spending any money. This will help you from going crazy on the awesome sofa when you know it's not in the budget.

Speaking of that sofa, before you decide on what new furniture pieces to buy, make sure you have thought out all the functions that will take place in your new space. How much seating do you need? Will there be a TV in the room? Do you entertain in that space? Will you eat meals in the room? How will you accommodate the flow of traffic into and out of the space? Maybe a sectional will accommodate more seating than a sofa. These are the questions to think about when creating your floor plan. It is much easier to know what size your furniture needs to be before you buy it, so you know if it will fit in your room!

Now you can start shopping for furniture. Remember to write down approximate measurements for the pieces you need to buy, and keep that paper with you at all times. It is also a good idea to **bring a measuring tape** along with you to the stores. You can save a lot of time and frustration by measuring first before you fall in love with something that won't fit in your floor plan. Shopping online is getting more and more popular. Many retailers offer free shipping and you always know the dimensions of the furniture since the measurements are listed in the description. Another nice feature of online shopping is that some retailers like *Living Spaces* actually have floor plan software on their site to help you visualize the scale of the furniture.

Remember! I recommend you carry furniture measurements with you when you go shopping.

If you have a good vision for the space or a floor plan to carry with you when shopping, you will find your trip to be much more pleasant. And since you already know your décor style, you have a good idea of what shape and style of furniture you are looking for.

To recap:

Before you spend one penny on your project, take the time to really think about how you want your space to look and to function. Don't forget to allocate money towards new flooring, window treatments, or paint if needed. Decide where you want to spend your budget dollars so you can get the biggest bang for your buck!

Visit my [design portfolio](#) for more decorating inspiration.

10 Commandments of Good Design

Tips for styling your new space

It's now time to answer the age old question that all my clients ask.

"How do I put the room together?"

Knowing how to go about styling your new space is the key component to a successful design. Setting up a room properly is not as difficult as you might think as long as you follow some simple design rules. I call them the 10 Commandments of Good Design.

The 10 Commandments of Good Design

1. Thou shalt not place all the furniture against the walls – Floating the furniture inside the perimeter of the room actually creates the illusion of more space, and creates comfortable conversation areas.
2. Thou shalt not ignore architectural features – Identify the features that are "built in" to your space first. These are areas of interest that you want to bring attention to.
3. Thou shalt not forget the focal point – Every room will have a focal point, even if you need to create one using artwork, accessories or furniture placement.
4. Thou shalt not position furniture too far apart – Your furniture should be spaced in a way that connects the pieces together visually.
5. Thou shalt not rely on overhead lighting – Each area in the room should be well lit using a combination of ambient, task and accent lighting.
6. Thou shalt not hang a mirror improperly – Yes, there is a right and wrong way to hang a mirror! Hang your mirror(s) where it will complement your space by reflecting a great view, bounce off a natural light source, or visually open up the space.
7. Thou shalt not hang artwork too high – Art is most comfortably viewed at eye level. And there should be a visual connection between the artwork and the furnishings around the art.

8. Thou shalt not avoid tactile interest – Adding a mixture of textures is absolutely necessary for visual appeal and adding depth to a room.
9. Thou shalt not create a sterile environment – Your room should reflect YOUR individual personality and style.
10. Thou shalt not scale the room improperly – Notice how objects interact with each other and how they “fit” in your space. Pay close attention to the vertical and horizontal balance in your overall room. Avoid having too many heavy pieces clustered together.

These rules are applicable to any space, any type of architecture, and any place you call home, whether large or small or in between.

Setting up a room properly is all about layering. Each element of design builds on the next until you have a beautiful finished product. These designer tips will help you put your room together like a pro.

Focal Point

The focal point is the feature that is most predominant in your space. What draws your attention the most? Is it a fireplace, or a large picture window, or maybe you have built-in shelving or a grand staircase? For some of you the television or entertainment center can be the focal point. Your main furniture setting will always be located around your focal point.

Traffic Flow

Look at your space and notice where the room openings or doors are. How do you get from point A to point B? This is called establishing a traffic pattern. We want to avoid placing any furniture in the way of our traffic pattern, as it would be like parking a car at the main entrance to a parking lot. It would be very difficult to get in with something large blocking your way!

Identify what paths you would like to keep clear as it will help to determine the furniture placement.

Conversation Area

There are several ways to create the primary conversation area in your room. If you have a sofa, try placing it directly opposite the fireplace, or if you have 2 sofas, try placing them facing each other, on either side of the fireplace. Was your fireplace on an angle? Then your sofa should be on an angle opposite the fireplace. Reference the shape of your room, so when you place that first piece of furniture you are complementing both your focal point and the architectural shape of your room.

In square-shaped rooms and bowling alley (long and skinny) rooms angling the furniture is more visually interesting. In a rectangular room, create two different seating areas, one larger than the other. That way you are using the entire space. In an L-Shape room you will usually have a dining area in the smaller space, and a conversation setting in the larger space. In all cases, avoid placing furniture against the walls when possible!

Helpful Tips When Placing the Sofa

- Take your cue from the architecture and the angles of your room.
- Remember to consider traffic patterns.
- Move furniture away from walls whenever possible. Consider placing a console table behind the sofa to extend it away from the wall.
- Avoid bringing in a sectional if it is too large for the scale of the room. Two sofas provide just as much seating and may be a better fit for your floor plan.
- When you have a sofa and a loveseat, always place them in an "L" with arms close. If you can, eliminate buying a loveseat and substitute with two chairs. You will have many more furniture placement options with the chairs.

What If You Don't Have a Focal Point?

I suggest using the most prominent feature in your room, like a big window or the entertainment center. Place the sofa opposite that focal point then create the conversation area around the sofa. Also consider ceiling height. If you have a cathedral ceiling, putting the foundation furniture piece near the center of the room helps with balance and symmetry. Likewise, if your ceiling is pitched (higher on one end) place your foundation piece in that area to balance off the high ceiling.

Creating the Main Seating Area

Begin by placing your smaller seating pieces with the sofa. These are your accent chairs and/or ottoman or stools. You will want all the furniture to be spaced comfortably apart but not so far that they look detached from the arrangement. Add the coffee table and end tables leaving about a 12–15 inch space from the coffee table to the furniture. If you have hard surface floors, you may want to add an area rug to anchor the conversation area. This helps with acoustics too. If you have wall-to-wall carpet, I don't recommend an area rug unless it is relatively thin so as not to create a tripping hazard. On hard surface floors, sometimes layering 2 area rugs can add interest and be very stylish.

Remember to consider balance and scale when selecting your furniture pieces. Try to maintain a similar “weight” in your furniture grouping. For example, an over-sized sofa next to a small chair will look off balance. You can also separate bookcases if you need to open up a space that feels too “heavy.” You can get creative with your furniture too. That ottoman can be a coffee table by adding a tray on top, or that pretty pedestal can also substitute as an end table.

You just completed all the steps in setting up your furniture arrangement. Cheers to you!

Add Accessories and Plants

Now that the room is furnished, you need to warm up the space with accessories. This is where you bring in a bit of your own personality and artfully fill in some of the empty surfaces. Your tchotchkes should reflect the design aesthetic you have chosen for the space. Maintain a cohesiveness in your collection and remember to integrate different textures. A furry throw on a white leather sofa really adds depth and drama to the space. Likewise, bringing in a hint of nature into the room gives that inviting homey feel. Real plants are preferred because they look... real! However, if you need to go the artificial route, my suggestion is to look at faux succulents. They are remarkably "real looking," add a sculptural feel to your accessories and are widely available both online and in your neighborhood craft stores.

A great tip to keep in mind when you are placing objects in a group is to think in odd numbers of 1, 3 or 5. Also, pay attention to varying the height of your objects as this adds visual interest. To get more ideas and inspiration on how to place your accessories, take a trip to your favorite retail home décor store. These specialty retailers execute professional visual displays and do a great job merchandising their wares!

Lighting

Lighting is certainly one of the most critical, and often neglected, elements in decorating a room. Good lighting sets a mood, confirms the room's function, and can instantly warm up a space like no other element.

Sometimes lighting is taken for granted. It is something that exists at the flip of a switch, but do we pay attention to exactly what that switch is turning on? Usually not! A great room design really does hinge on a well-done lighting scheme. The following technique explains the geometry of a good lighting plan.

Lighting Triangle

The lighting triangle is the golden rule of lighting and used by all designers. To create a great atmosphere in a room you should combine several light sources and space these sources evenly within the room. If you have overhead lighting then you already have general illumination. If not, consider a floor lamp or two to accomplish the same job. Your secondary light source is more task oriented. This includes table lamps for the end tables or a desk lamp if your room is an office. Finally every room needs accent lighting. If you have a bookcase, tuck a small low-watt lamp on the shelf. If you have a plant in the corner of your room, place an up-light on the floor behind it to cast a beautiful shadow towards the ceiling. If you have a fireplace, consider a pairing of candlesticks on the mantle, etc. There should be NO dark corners or spaces in your room when your lighting placement is complete.

Hanging Artwork

It is a known fact that many people hang artwork too high. Before you hang anything, I suggest you bring in your favorite selections and lean them against the wall or on the furniture in the location where you want them hung. When you have all the artwork in the room, then you can begin hanging. Always remember that art is usually hung at eye level (about 60 inches off the floor). If the artwork is above a sofa, keep the space between the top of the sofa and bottom of the frame around 8 inches. You want to make sure that the art is visually connected to the furniture below it.

If you want to create a gallery wall with your art there are a few guidelines to follow. Have some type of consistency in your collection. If you hang random artwork on the wall it will feel disjointed and chaotic. You could use the same color frames, or different frames with the same color of mat. Also, look for frame sizes that fit nicely together. Include some large, some medium and some small frames and place them like you are laying out a puzzle. Also,

consider the size of the wall space when hanging a gallery collection. The scale of the wall should be large enough to accommodate all the frames comfortably without feeling crowded. Conversely, the collection should not be so small as to “feel lost” on a large wall.

When you are laying out a gallery wall “installation,” it helps to use the floor to create your template. Since your floor is the largest flat area in your space it makes sense to use it like a large piece of paper!

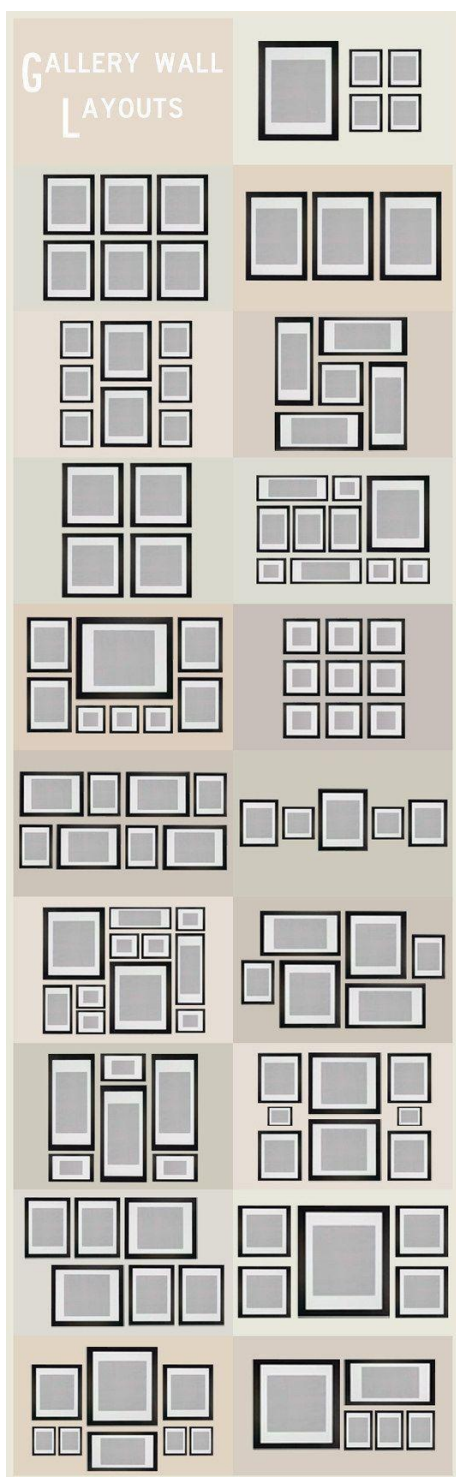
Lay out all the frames just like you want to hang them on the wall. Ideally, you will perform this step very close to the wall where you are hanging the gallery. This helps to give you the proper perspective and spacing. Once you have a layout you like, take a quick cell phone pic. I can't stress enough the importance of taking that photo. It will give you a reference point that you will look at as you begin to hang each frame.

To recap what you learned about gallery wall installations, just remember:

1. Maintain consistency in your collection.
2. Include artwork of different sizes.
3. Consider the scale of your wall when determining the size of your gallery.

HINT

Begin hanging your gallery with the frame in the center of your layout! This will ensure that the gallery installation ends up centered on your wall correctly. When hanging each piece, measure the distance between the frames first (top, bottom and sides), then pick up the frame, measure that distance on the wall, and hang that frame. Repeat until all frames are hung.



Here's a fun side note. You can break the rules when you hang a gallery wall! Yes, some of frames may be hanging quite low on the wall and some may be extra high. It's okay because the installation is like a large piece of connected art.

Another secret designer tip!

You can add more depth and drama to your space by placing a piece of furniture near your gallery collection so it partially blocks the view. Try it. I think you will be amazed at the effect.

Whew! I think it's time to recap what you just learned. Yup, putting a room together is all about layering!

- Identify your focal point.
 - Bring in your largest furniture piece (sofa or sectional).
 - Place a rug under the sofa to define the conversation area (if hard surface flooring).
 - Lay out the main seating area by adding accent chairs, maybe an ottoman or stools.
 - Add the end tables, console table or coffee table.
 - Place the lighting around the room (using triangle technique).
 - Add complementary accessories (don't over-do it).
- Finish off by hanging your artwork.

These basic design steps apply to all decorating projects. Do not be surprised or concerned if it takes you several weeks or more to complete your room. That's okay. You don't want to rush the finished product, as it is an organic, creative process. And, sometimes, you just have to be patient when searching for that one special item. Trust me, you will be glad you did because it will be worth the wait! Keep in mind, this is not an episode of HGTV where everything happens in an hour!

[Click here](#) for a free list of **Sandy's Shopping Sources!**

Room Makeovers: What Are They?

Sometimes you just need a little refresh

Sometimes instead of embarking on a huge design project, you just need a little refresh. We refer to this as a room redesign. I love room makeovers because they are: inexpensive, quick, and can really add the “Wow” factor to any room!

- Inexpensive because you use what you already have!
 - Quick because you can redo a room in one day!
- “Wow” factor comes from your own creativity!

Let’s explore how you can DIY your own room makeover.

I started my design business in 2004 and for the first few years I focused primarily on one-day room makeovers. Redesign is an exciting, unique and impactful option to traditional interior decorating. There are specific design principles tailored to this niche. Having completed hundreds of room makeovers, I can honestly say my clients’ most popular reaction when seeing the “big reveal” at the end of the day was tears of joy and a smile-filled “Wow!”

I got such a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction from seeing my clients so happy! It’s a special feeling that I look back at to this day. I’m excited to share this design technique so you can enjoy the feeling of instant gratification as well. But before I do...

Interested in completing your own room makeover?

You can get more information on my [***DIY Room Makeover Kit***](#) here.

The kit contains color photos of rooms, explanations of how to work with architectural details, design tip secrets for hanging artwork, and more.

Why not get your kit right now while you are thinking about it! [***DIY Room Makeover Kit***](#)

The 5 Easy Steps to Your Room Makeover

I recommend you first purchase a set of furniture glides. They look like plastic miniature Frisbees that you place under your furniture to make sliding heavy objects very easy. You can purchase them online and also at most major big box stores. Look for a pack containing a minimum set of four glides for carpeted floors and four glides for hard surface floors. These glides are your best friends when it comes to moving your furniture around. Here is a brand I like a lot.

SMART GLIDES <http://amzn.to/2yI4i5F>

Follow these steps:

1. Dismantle the Room
2. Establish a Focal Point
3. Create a Floor Plan and Furniture Placement
4. Lighting & Artwork
5. Plants & Accessories

Step 1: Dismantle the Room

Start by removing almost everything from the space unless it's too heavy or it is an architectural detail, such as built-in bookshelves. There are two reasons for doing this: (1) to get a clear view of your room, and (2) so you can de-clutter and clean the area. The idea is that your new room will consist only of items that are intended for the space. The extra stuff can go into your donation pile, giveaway or sell pile, or the recycle bin. So not only are you creating a fresh space to enjoy, but you are also clearing out the clutter at the same time. A win-win for sure!

Step 2: Establish a Focal Point

As I described earlier in this book, you are identifying the main architectural feature in the room, like a fireplace. If needed, you will create a focal point by highlighting a point of interest; i.e. a view from a picture window, or maybe an interesting piece of artwork.

Step 3: Create a Floor Plan and Furniture Placement

The only difference between this step and what you read and learned earlier in this book about creating a floor plan, is that you will be using furniture and accessories that you already own. The design principle about positioning the furniture is exactly the same.

When selecting what furniture you will put back in your space, don't forget to "shop" around your home to see what treasures you may find. Check your closets, the garage, that extra catch-all space and of course other rooms. You will be surprised what you can find when you look at items differently. This is what is meant by "repurposing" furniture, and it is the key to a creative room makeover. You don't need to spend money on something new when there are endless options using what you have!

Let's review some ways you can repurpose furniture.

Most people are familiar with using an ottoman as a coffee table, but don't forget two upholstered stools can stand in for a coffee table as well. Or if you have a small dining table that isn't being used anymore, cut the legs down and you have an instant coffee table! Maybe you have an old storage chest that's a little worse for the wear. You can cover it with a piece of remnant fabric or perhaps a throw will do the trick.

Another trick is to remove a loveseat from your setting and replace it with two chairs. The chairs can be different as long as their scale (size) is similar. This gives you more options to design a well-balanced conversation area. If your sectional feels too big for your space, break it up to create a one-armed sofa. You can drape a throw on the exposed end, or maybe your side table will cover it! Are you missing a side/end table? You can use a pedestal and place a tray on top.

One of my favorite furniture surprises is to bring in a desk or dining room sideboard, and place it behind the sofa. You now have a multifunctional space that can accommodate a work space. Or in the case of the sideboard, you can set it up as a buffet table when entertaining.

Baskets are fantastic multi-functional pieces too. You can turn one basket upside down and place another basket on top of it to make an eclectic planter feature that adds varying height and interest to your room. If you have old tired pillows, think about recovering them. You can use fabric from a tablecloth or even an old blouse or dress!

The ideas are endless when you think “outside of the box.” The next time you look at a decorative object, ask yourself, “What else can I do with that?”

Step 4: Lighting & Artwork

The principle of creating a “lighting triangle” still applies with your room makeover. Make sure you bring in fixtures from another space if you didn’t have sufficient lighting originally. Also, avoid using compact fluorescent bulbs whenever possible. They cast a pinkish hue and take a few seconds to warm up before you get even lighting. I recommend using LED or halogen bulbs as they put off a pure warm light that is much more pleasing to the eye.

Remember to hang your artwork at eye level. If the art is placed too high it appears to be floating all alone on the wall. You can bring a unifying theme to your art by simply painting all the frames black. It helps make even inexpensive art pop and adds a bit of drama to the vignette.

Step 5: Plants & Accessories

Again, the principles of accessorizing your space discussed earlier in this book still apply. The good news is you probably have a lot of tchotchkes to choose from. Most people find out they have an exorbitant amount of collections that need editing down in order to create a pleasing display. If you are emotionally attached to a special collection, remember you can rotate items from that collection in and out of your space over time. That way you are still enjoying it!

If you don't have any plants to bring in to your new space, check your yard and see if there is some nice woody branch material you can trim off and put into a vase or urn. Also, some fresh cut flowers would be a beautiful touch. Any kind of organic material will do the trick.

You are doing a great job! By utilizing these five easy steps you dismantled your room, established the focal point, created a floor plan, placed the lamps, hung the artwork and finally brought in plants and accessories.

Now it's time to step back and admire your **Room Makeover!**

Your friends and family will be surprised and impressed when they walk in for the first time and see your beautiful new creation. Only you know that it didn't cost even one penny!

Your Next Steps

I'm so excited that you now have the knowledge you need to confidently pursue your future decorating projects. By breaking down the design process into easy steps you can let go of your anxieties and find your outlet for inspiration. And we know that—

Inspiration + Vision = Great Design!

Here are the 5 most important steps to follow when starting your next design project:

1. Identify your décor style and apply that style consistently throughout the project.
2. Declutter your space first and identify your focal point.
3. Have a floor plan for furniture placement roughed out on paper. (Follow the 10 Commandments.)
4. Create a budget that will accommodate your key decorative additions such as new flooring, paint, etc.
5. Before you go shopping, write down measurements for key purchases, such as the sofa or sectional.

My wish is that everyone who reads these pages is motivated to go out and decorate at least one space in their home.

My clients say they enjoy working with me because I start by talking with you about how you see yourself using the space. You become relaxed when the function of the space is clear, and you feel like a plan is developing. It is fun and exciting to talk about potential design styles, colors, and furnishings when you know there is no pressure for a correct answer. I figure out what the best décor options are by eliminating things you don't like. Discovering your true style is almost like the process of elimination with a twist. Once your design style is identified, we are off to the races planning the entire space. Ideas start flowing freely when in the design style groove.

Ready to make a design change? Feeling unsure about executing your ideas? You can book a “virtual” meeting with me using simple video conferencing technology.

Check out [Your Virtual Room Fixer.com](https://YourVirtualRoomFixer.com) today and we will discover your unique design style together!



Keep it fun, make it creative, and follow your vision!

More Testimonials

Sandy was great. Very receptive to our design ideas. She came up with some great solutions and advice for some design problems we had. She helped us find the perfect colors for our home and she coordinated with the handymen to get the job done to our liking. All in all, working with her was a great experience.

Sarah G.

Sandy was great to work with and brought a level of professionalism while working with our contractor. She had creative ideas and was a good listener. We love our new remodeled bathrooms and tile floors throughout.

Launa G.

When we began the process of our major remodel, we soon realized we were in WAY over our heads. We needed help navigating the many choices and decisions necessary with a job the size of ours. Enter Sandy with Re-Style Interiors—our superhero. She stepped in and suddenly everything became almost easy. She is well versed in all aspects of home remodeling, and is a great listener, which is a valuable attribute in helping guide the homeowner to what they are envisioning. She has been an intricate part of our entire process and has patiently (and with a wonderful smile and sense of humor) dealt with everything that came our way. We would have been lost without her, and we recommend her without hesitation!

Eddie A.