



# A simple plan: decorating tips & tricks

BY JACKIE MORRA

**E**veryone wants a beautiful home, but is often confused about where to start when they are planning to renovate, update or decorate. Here are a few tips that answer some of the most common questions that I am asked that I hope will surprise and enlighten you.

#### HOW TO DECIDE ON A COLOUR SCHEME?

Paint is the biggest impact; the right colours will pull everything together and complement any style. Start looking for colour cues by reviewing décor items you love and get direction from an area rug, artwork or fabric noting the three main colours used.

#### HOW TO FIND INSPIRATION?

The best way to find inspiration is to create a story board by gathering photos of spaces you love and

décor items from magazines, websites or visiting showrooms to see varying materials for texture, colour and styles to see which ones you naturally gravitate to.

#### HOW DO I START A DÉCOR PROJECT?

Create a simple plan of your expectations then start to review materials, time lines and a budget. Be organized and focus on one area at a time until it is completed. The layout of a space involves the correct placement of furniture and accessories and should take into account scale, flow and focal points. A room should have one to two focal points such as windows, accent walls or artwork.

#### HOW DO I DECIDE ON FLOORING?

The floor area is the second largest space next to the

walls and sets the tone and feel. Taking time to research the right product for your lifestyle and taking into consideration quality, the look you want and installation is the key for longevity.

#### **HOW MANY LIGHT SOURCES DO I NEED IN A ROOM?**

Ideally there should be three lights in a room. This can include overhead, functional/task, and mood lighting. In a dining room, the fixture should hang 30 inches above the table and be at least 1/2 of the table's width.

#### **HOW DO I CHOOSE AND DISPLAY ACCESSORIES?**

If you don't love it, live without it. Accessories should be a reflection of your personality or style. Group accessories in odd numbers, preferably threes, while varying in the height of objects. Pillows, artwork, lighting and treasured pieces add a finishing touch and can be easily updated.

#### **HOW DO I COORDINATE FABRICS?**

Fabrics need to complement each other and not compete in terms of colour, pattern and scale in order to balance furnishings and style without being visually distracting. Try to choose all fabrics within a space at the same time.

#### **WHAT IS THE RIGHT PLACEMENT AND SIZE FOR ARTWORK?**

Hang artwork 60 inches from the floor to the centre of the art. For hallways and stairs use 65 inches. Artwork over a bed or piece of furniture should be 2/3 of the overall width and not higher than eight inches from the furniture.

#### **HOW DO I GET HELP?**

Get three quotes from contractors and suppliers confirmed in writing with specific time lines and costs by project, so there are no surprises and it allows you to get unique ideas. Trust your instincts and make sure you are working with someone that shares your vision.

#### **JACKIE MORRA AT THE TORONTO FALL HOME SHOW**

Jackie Morra will be at the Toronto Fall Home Show running Sept. 22 to 25 at the Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place. She will be speaking about Decorating 101, Creating a Simple Plan for Inside and Out on Sat., Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. and Sun., Sept. 25 at 3 p.m. on the Style at Home Main Stage presented by HGTV. Visit [fallhomeshow.com](http://fallhomeshow.com) for more details.



#### **JACKIE MORRA**

Jackie Morra is a design consultant and principal of Home Decor Solutions. She is a regular guest speaker who takes to the celebrity stage at the Toronto Fall Home Show and National Home Show. Whether it's an indoor space that inspires you or an outdoor oasis, Jackie advises on all aspects of design and offers ideas and solutions to make the most of their living spaces both inside and out. For more info on Jackie visit [homedecorsolutions.ca](http://homedecorsolutions.ca) or [jackiemorrainteriors.com](http://jackiemorrainteriors.com).

