



SPACES

What are some designer pro-tips to make my home feel comfortable and pleasing all through the year?

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Good design can be bold and quite evident or simply subtle and subliminal. Both result in a feeling of recognition. Whether you study design everywhere you go or merely know a comfortable, pleasing space when you experience it, good design feels special. Good design is recognizable.

Spaces that feel good, pleasing, and comfortable are saying that they have been well designed. What is the common denominator? Balance. How can I use these pro-tips in my home?

Pick a room. Look around and see all the elements. **Good design is all about balance.** Color – warm/cool. Texture – rough/smooth. Shapes – straight lines/curved lines. Surfaces – soft/hard. Too many warm colors without a cooling or neutral reprieve, too many rough textures without a counter feel of smooth, rigid straight lines dominating the room without the complement of curved pieces, too many



Leather seats and fabric backs offer contrast in color and texture with the added practical element of easy to clean.



A curving banco gracefully connects the angled walls. Warm corals contrast cool sage and clean whites with stone wall adding subtle texture.

hard surfaces without a contrast of soft.

You can do this in the reverse as you enter a space where you like the vibe and dissect why. Look at those same opposing elements and see if they are in balance. Have you ever noticed that certain rooms feel cold? Cold temperatures or perceived temperatures resulting from cool colors are exacerbated by hard, smooth surfaces. Even

stone stairs with a soft, bullnose edge are more pleasing than a severe, square, hard edge. A subtle example of balance.

To execute good design, you don't have to love the theme or the color scheme. The idea of balance and proportion is that the subject matter, objects, furnishings, and colors are secondary to how it is organized. Where things are placed and with what or against what is getting down to the basics.

Corner fireplaces are best complimented by furnishings following their angle (s). Whether perpendicular or parallel, the angles aligning are part of the balance of the space.

A round or tapered table between two chairs that sit at an angle versus a pair of parallel chairs with the square or rectangular table between them. The round option could work with either set-up. But why not the other?



Sofa and opposing pair of chairs placed parallel, and perpendicular to the fireplace.

It can be fun, if not too taxing, to go around your house and look at the grouping and arrangement of your furniture. Some people change it up often while others find their comfort and balance and never require much in the way of change. IF there is room for improvement, it can often be an amazing transformation without buying even one new item. I have done this for years, entering a space and rearranging either the entire collection of furniture in a room or merely a few pieces (without the need for new pieces), and the change is fun and exciting.



Warm and cool colors, smooth leather with textural fabrics and a round table between two angled chairs. Many elements of balance.

The same can be said for going around your house and taking mental (or written) inventory of what you have and where. Often pieces can be moved from one room to another and re-purposed within your own home. That too can create dramatic improvements and interesting, effective changes.

“Balance is not something you find, it is something that you create.”

—JANA KINGSFORD, AUTHOR OF UNJUGGLED: LESSONS FROM A DECADE OF BLENDING BUSINESS, BABIES, BALANCE & BIG DREAMS.

I came across this quote and it was interesting to dig further, because you can find infinite examples of balance throughout the natural world. It is all around us in perfection and miraculous design. The symmetry and balance of our own bodies – Google Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man and the Golden Mean - the golden ratio or divine proportion. It is that perfection, that balance, that naturally feels so right. We are naturally created in a world of perfect balance, but it is in our attempts to produce and design that it must be created.



A pair of black and white ottoman balances opposing black sofa. Contrasting colors with colourful accents punctuating the scheme. Shag rug softens stone floor.

Your Neighbor,

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