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TRENDI TALK

THE LATEST ON DECORATING TRENDS AND TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

WHAT A DECORATOR CAN DO FOR YOU

* Certified Interior Decorators have formal training in all aspects of colour and design. They can recommend:

- * finishes (like flooring and wall coverings)
- * window treatments
- * lighting fixtures and appliances
- * colour palettes for rooms
- * furniture placement

MIX IT UP

The trend in decorating is to mix different patterns together to create a unique look. Generally the rule is to stick with no more than 3 colours in a room (e.g. cream, blue and pink). Use these colours in printed floral drapery panels, throw pillows in a geometric print and artwork. Mix large and small patterns to give some variety. Use the larger scale patterns on the bigger items like large floral prints on long drapery panels and the smaller prints on smaller items like the throw pillows.

Select a fabric, wallpaper or area rug that you love and work with the colours in that to create your room. Be careful by not overdoing it. There is a point when it becomes too much. If there are too many patterns in the room, the eye does not know what to look at. Just remember that moderation is key!

MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION

When people come to your home the first thing they see is your front door. If it has peeling, cracking paint or is faded it is probably time to give it a face lift. After all, first impressions do count! A solid aluminium door with a stained glass window will let light into your home and have a pretty face to the outside. Use a paint colour on your door which suits the rest of your homes colour scheme on the exterior.

Green will complement the red of a brick façade. Dark green gives a more formal look. A Royal blue door is a nice vibrant colour for a pink hue brick or stone house. Red makes a bold impression. It works well with red brick and siding that is taupe or brown.

Black will give a formal look and is very dramatic. It is perfect if you have architectural features that you want to embellish at the front entrance like columns or pillars. Brown looks great with tan coloured brick or siding. A great choice for less formal facades. Lighter versions of blues, greens, etc. will have a less formal look. Great for the front door of a cottage or ranch style home. So try a colour scheme that works with your brick or siding and make a great first impression.

SOLUTIONS FOR SLIDING DOORS

There are a few different ways to dress sliding patio doors. No need for ugly plastic blinds anymore. A simple pair of pretty sheer panels on a decorative rod hung with clips or grommets is an easy and functional solution. Sheers will easily slide back and forth so that the doors can be used. A printed sheer fabric will diffuse the light and still give privacy when needed.



For decorative purposes, if you have a great view you don't want to hide, use stationary side panels. They can be mounted off of the doors frame about 12 inches above the door frame. This will visually add height to a low ceiling.

Top it with style – Add a simple valance with a zigzag or scalloped bottom in a bold print or stripe. This will give the doors a finished look without blocking the view or hampering the operation of the sliding doors.

Note: If you are using functional panels use tiebacks to keep the panels tucked neatly inside when you want the view. Keep the panels just short of the floor so that draperies don't puddle on the floor or hinder the operation.

Learn more about how to properly dress your windows by attending the "Designing Divas" event in Cambridge on Sat. May 5th.

I will be hosting a workshop entitled "Window Dressing" where I will be showing you how to use window treatments for the spring and summer season. For more info. and to register contact 519-624-9948 before April 30th. www.hopespring.ca

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