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How to create a beautiful home in 5 steps



RUSTIC CHARM

INTERIORS & DESIGN

How to create a beautiful home in 5 steps

Building, designing, or renovating any home is an investment in time & money, and process is often longer than we anticipate. Our key piece of advice; have a PLAN.

We hope this overview gives you a fresh perspective and most of all, a starting point.

We wish you success & fun as you embark on the journey to creating a beautiful home.

1.

Get clear

The most valuable step in the process, is to get clear on the vision & aesthetic of your home. We suggest you spend some time discovering your unique style by collating images that speak to you.

Vision Boards are an incredibly valuable tool for visualising the look & feel of your home. Developing a vision board is an incredibly valuable process for gathering your ideas, honing your aesthetic, and getting clear on your vision, to ensure a successful project.

Every. Single. Time. You'll create a place you love to call home, a place you enjoy being.

How do you create a vision board? **GATHER INSPIRATION**

Find images that inspire you. This may come from interiors or exteriors photos, fashion looks, architecture details, or your favourite travel destinations. You may be inspired by light in a particular space or find yourself drawn to a particular colour. An image might evoke a sense of calm or excitement; pay attention to the way you respond to certain images.

Look for inspiration in home décor books, magazine, Pinterest, nature, photos, Art and beyond.

We suggest creating an overarching vision board for your home, then break down each room as you begin to work through the steps and get more specific about each space in your home.



Source
Pinterest, IDCO Collective

Coastal Farmhouse



Sample
Vision Board

From this vision board you can identify the following:

Style: Coastal Farmhouse

Mood: Relaxed & casual living. Easy, slow living, a space to exhale!

Explore your selections further to discover how you want to feel in your spaces;

- A sense of vastness/space (tall ceilings, vaulted ceilings, open plan spaces)
- Bright & Airy: Natural light- filled spaces
- Natural Materials and colour palette drawn from nature, creating a sense of ease & simplicity. Connection with nature is reflected by using tactile organic materials and textures

Materials Selections:

- **Timber** could be used as flooring, for beams and/or internal or external doors
- **White Shiplap** used as internal wall treatments/trim and/or external cladding
- **Marble/stone** for hard surfaces- could be tiles, kitchen island, vanities, benchtops
- **Aged Brass** can be incorporated through tapware, light fixtures, handles, hardware throughout
- **Shaker style cabinetry** in kitchen, laundry, bathroom vanity
- **Linen textile** through fabric choices & soft furnishings
- **Rattan** could be used in furniture and accessories or even as a finishing detail on cabinetry

Colours: Muted palette including soft whites, grey/taupes with hints of olive green and grey/blues

Hardscaping & Landscaping:

- Stone or limestone pavers, gravel
- Tall trees, flowering shrubs in whites & greens, hedges, and boxwood style shrubs. Repetition in plant choice. Balance formal and informal. Limited plant selection, repeated.

This exercise may take some time to develop, but it is well worth it to nail your design brief. You will save time & money while you avoid mistakes & arguments!

Complete this process for each room in your home, then lay out your mood-boards to ensure your scheme is cohesive room to room. Edit until you are satisfied.

Kitchen Sample:



Source
Goldisaneutral.co.uk

2.

Function

Decide how you want your space to function. Questions to ask yourself.

- 1) How do you live?
- 2) What do you need from the space? For example, seating in a lounge room or storage in an office, natural light, or large windows to frame a view? Access to outdoors?
- 3) How do I want the space to function? Is this space for fun or rest. Do you need to work from this room?

We suggest you approach this step as you work room to room, don't forget to include the outdoor spaces too.

Example: Guest Bedroom



How do you live?

Do you host family and friends often? If so, then a guest bedroom will need to be a comfortable place for visitors to feel welcomed and enjoy their stay.

What do I need from this space?

A separate space for up to two guests to stay comfortably for a few nights or up to a week.

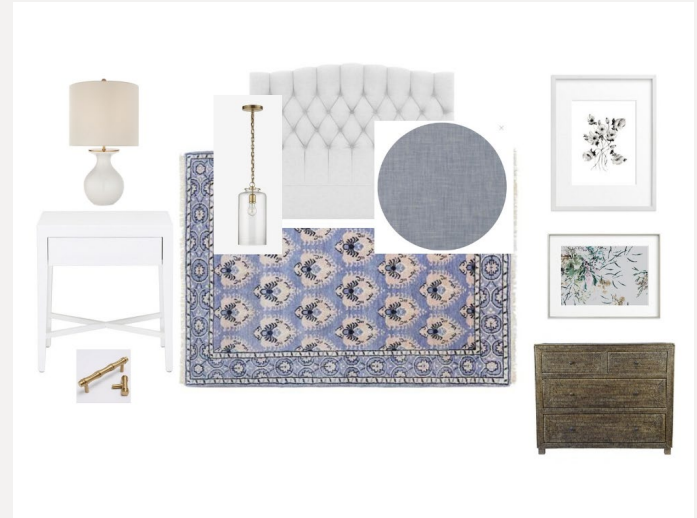
How do I want this space to function?

Primarily as a bedroom with basic storage for clothes and personal effects, a bench or armchair for a simple private sitting area, plus extra comforts of home; lamp, accessories, and luxurious bedding.

Once you have narrowed down the needs & wants, purchasing decisions become easier. Refer to your vision board to make sure your choices fit the design aesthetic. We have incorporated the following elements from the vision board (page 3) within this space:

- **Brass** in knobs on bedside tables, chest of drawer, light fixture & framed artwork
- **Colour palette** is in keeping with bed, bedlinen selections, lamp, rug, and décor accessories
- **Rattan** furniture in chest of drawers and bench
- **Linen** materials used in curtains
- **Timber** flooring & timber frame of artwork

Use your Vision Board as a compass to guide your decisions for a cohesive outcome. You don't need to include every single element in every single space but keep referring to your visual aid and make sure you are on track.





Source
Minette Hand

3.

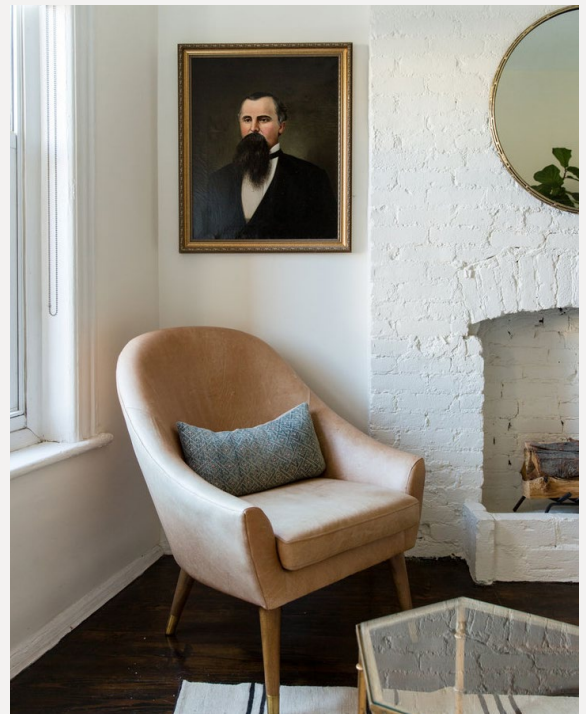
Scale, Flow & Floorplans

Time to get out your ruler, grid paper and pencil!

The most essential element here is: **SCALE**. Furniture that is too big or too small for a space is uncomfortable and won't be used or enjoyed... by anyone.

Here's a notable example of scale done right. This apartment living room demonstrates how to tackle scale: **both vertically & horizontally**. A wide sofa fills the back wall horizontally, while the oversized oil portraits above, fill the space vertically. By adding a floor lamp and a tall fiddle-leaf tree on either side, this space well balanced. The height of the lamp and tree draw your eyes upwards, accentuating the ceiling height in this small space. The placement of armchair and cocktail tables (notice these pieces are visually lighter in scale) makes the space feel expansive and well balanced.

Let's look at another example.





Source
Interior Design Advocate

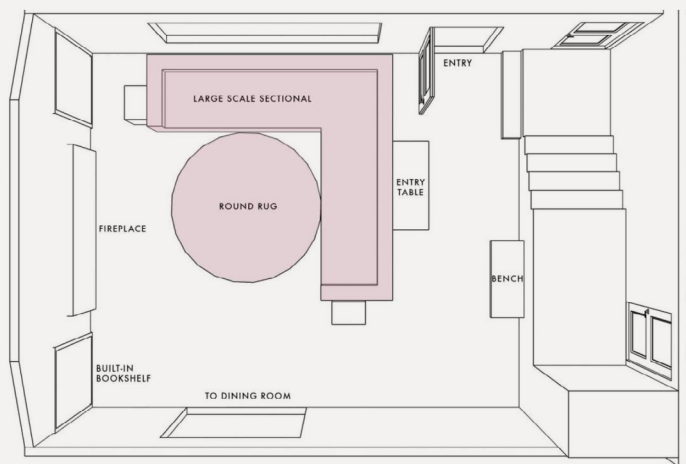
BEFORE:

The scale in this space is off. The furniture selections look dwarfed in this dining room, making this space look cavernous and uninviting.

AFTER:

By adding a tall China cabinet to the RHS, substantial chandelier, a grid of mirrors for height (and light), carver dining chairs, the space is completely transformed. The proportions are better, and the room is now cosy and inviting. Notice the additional chairs on either side of the buffet, creating the illusion of a longer piece of furniture. The lamps add a softer glow too.

Floorplans



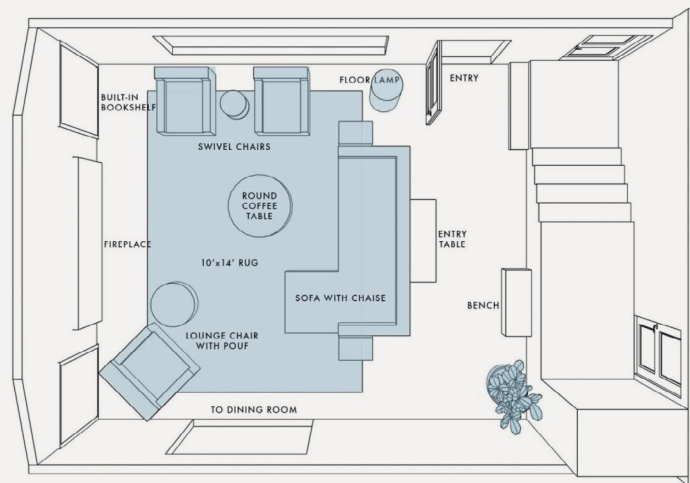
Before

Floorplans

A basic floor plan will help to define the best flow & function of a space. It's useful to mark out furniture placement so you can adjust the balance, scale & proportion on paper.

Follow this guide as you work through each space in your home:

1. Measure your space, twice
2. Decide on your scale
3. Draw in fixed walls, doors & windows (consider orientation for doors) & power point locations are useful.
4. Identify the flow, paying attention to entry/exit points, access required to open/close windows and doors
5. Refer to Step Two: Function. Work out what you need in the space
6. Plan out the furniture, starting with the largest items first



After

This step may require a few revisions, until you figure out the layout that works best for your space. It can be useful to tape out the largest pieces in your space with masking tape, to give you a visual sense of how big your sofa should be, in comparison to scale of coffee table.

Looking at the BEFORE floor-plan, the large sectional is up against the window which offers limited seating options (people rarely 'lounged' sitting right next to each other on a sectional) and access to the window. The shape and size of the rug is too small for the space.

The AFTER, floor-plan creates a more inviting living space that can accommodate different activities; lounging, watching TV, game night or conversation. A smaller L-shaped sectional is well proportioned and allows other more comfortable seating options. A larger rug connects the furniture within the space and round pouf, coffee & side tables, help break up the linear pieces.

Draw out your space. Is there a better layout? Is your room well-balanced? What's missing? Draw it out.



Master Bedroom

4.

Choose the furniture

Begin by making a list of all the main pieces. Resist the urge to add accessories (that's coming next)! Once you have a basic list, you can work out budget, order of importance, and timelines for furniture ordering. Our biggest tip here: **Measure twice, and you'll only cry once!**

Here's an example:

Master Bedroom;

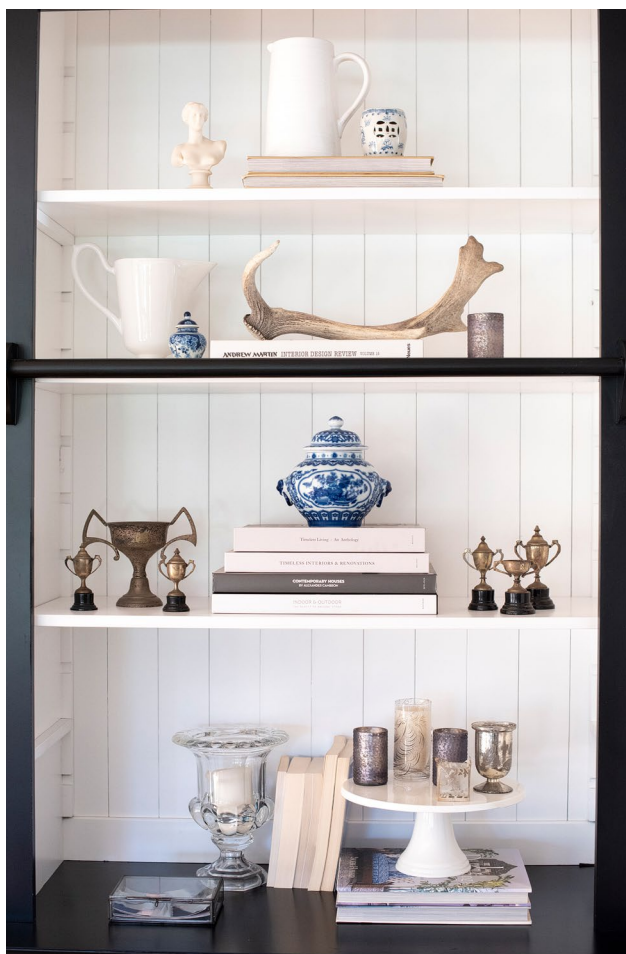
1 x Bed (or bedhead)

2 x Bedside Tables

1 x Chest of Drawers (how many drawers are required?)

NB. Lamps, rug, lighting, seating, window treatments, accessories are all important finishing touches, but these come later.

Whether you are furnishing your home, one room at a time or designing the whole house; keep referring to your Vision Board to make sure your choices are consistent.



5.

Decorate

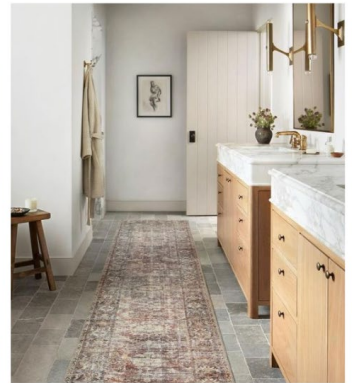
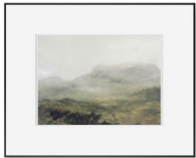
Here's where your personality and unique style will shine. Choosing the finishing touches to decorate your spaces should be fun and done over time. Travel, visit antique shops or shop vintage markets, to incorporate one-of-a-kind accessories into your home.

It's the final & most rewarding step when a house transforms into YOUR home.



Our top 6 tips

for decorating your home with character & style:



1. Frame a modern piece of Art in a vintage frame. Scour antique stores or second-hand stores for unique frames.
2. Custom cushions in a vintage fabric will instantly elevate any space. Shop Etsy for unique fabrics such as vintage kilims, batiks, or mud cloths. If the fabric you love is too small for one cushion, consider covering only one side, or have it framed.

3. Consider a custom lampshade for a bespoke look. A simple lamp can be transformed with a fresh new shade.
4. Layer a smaller vintage rug over inexpensive sisal to add depth, colour, and luxury to your space.

BONUS

6



5. Hang or lean Art in unlikely places like a laundry, powder rooms or kitchens. A shelf makes a beautiful place to hang a pretty scene.

6. Mix To Match. Mix up different furniture & décor pieces from various eras & styles. Choose different upholstery pieces in complimentary colours & shapes. Decorate using a mix of high and low décor accessories. Add vintage pieces throughout your home for a unique style that you won't see anywhere else.

Source

Decorpad, Rylo Interior Design, Danielle Oakey, Josh Young Designs, Amber Lewis & Rustic Charm Interiors & Design

We hope these ideas help you feel more confident as you move forward and, begin to create your dream home.

Would you like to explore these steps together, with a little one-on-one guidance? We'd love to work together.

Get in touch and find out more about our Design Services. Send us an **email here**.

Here's to a beautiful home!

Crystal & Dennis

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