

# **Eight Ways to Luxury Design for Your Home**

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*Terry K. Interiors*  
Express your style

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# Introduction

Luxury design means different things to different people. We often describe or think of luxury as posh, elegant, detailed, sophisticated, expensive, high-end, and so on. It can mean all these things, but from my point of view, luxury design is going above and beyond average decorating to create a cohesive environment that speaks to a person's lifestyle.

Design is more than just the basic necessities of having furniture, flooring, accessories, and four walls. Having conveniences and interior furnishings that fit your personal lifestyle is a luxury in my book. If your design enhances your experience at home, makes life easier, less stressful, and more enjoyable, it's a luxury!

Having designed interiors for over 25 years, I have come up with a winning formula to create a stylish interior for your home that will stand the test of time and provide you with years of enjoyment. It eliminates decorating mistakes and puts you on a path to decorating success. It works with almost any budget.

The secret is to spend wisely and to use my eight decorating luxury design tips as tools. You don't need to incorporate all the elements, just those that make sense and work best for you. Here's my take on what you can do to create a stylish interior for your home and some tips to avoid common decorating mistakes.

Keep in mind that these tips are tools to help you understand the full scope of designing an interior.

# Tip 1

## Always work with a furniture plan.

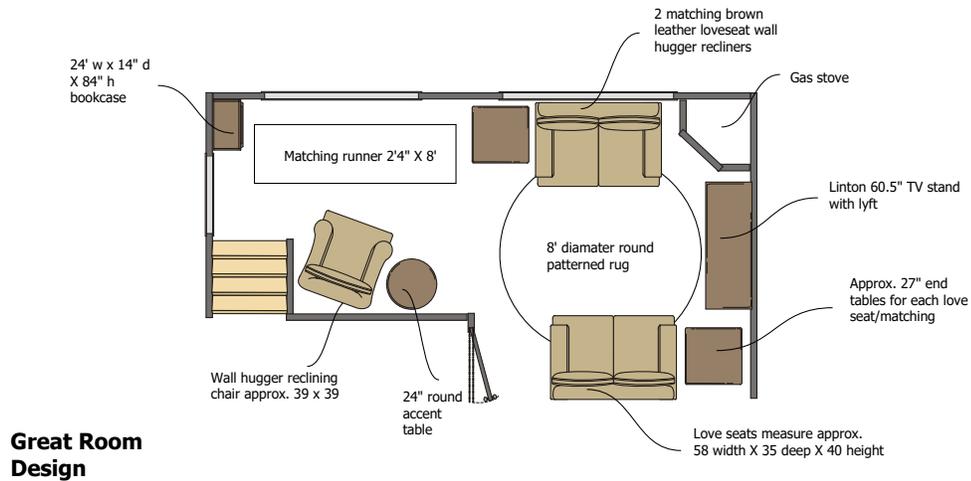
Furniture that is too big or too small for a space will look out of place and will be an obvious problem right from the start. This is the most common mistake that I see homeowners make. Moving furniture around on paper makes it much easier to see what will fit in your room and what allows for the best arrangement for traffic flow and proper seating.

A well-designed furniture plan is a great tool to have. You will benefit greatly by planning this important detail before shopping. Without this vital piece of information, you couldn't possibly know what size furniture pieces will fit in your space.

Choosing furniture in the proper dimensions and scale for your room size, large or small, will feel and look just right. This tip gets you off to a great start designing your spaces.

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## Tip 2

# Color has the most visual impact in any room design.

The color of the walls sets the tone and lends a certain feeling to a space. It can enhance what you already own, or it can set a mood for a new style when you are looking to refresh your home. This doesn't mean you need to follow a trend (unless you want to), instead follow your own lead.

Live with colors you love. Just be careful when using colors that are bright or colors that are dark. Knowing how you want your space to feel will make it easier to narrow a color choice.

For example, dark colors can make a room feel cozy and add drama, often used on accent walls, in a study, library, powder room, or dining space. Light colors and pastels lend a brighter, happier feel to a room and are great to use in open spaces, such as kitchens that open to family rooms and foyers.

Color doesn't stop at walls. Use your strongest colors, such as reds, violets, oranges, greens, and blues, or a combination of colors in accessories to add a pop of color to your space.

The key is to find colors you want to surround yourself with. Focus on how you want your space to feel. Let that guide you. Use colors that complement one another and work well together.



### Tip 3

## Stay neutral in color with your largest pieces of furniture.

I'm not talking only beige colors. Your neutral can be any color, but the idea is to choose your largest furniture pieces with an end result in mind. You will likely be living with these pieces for a long time. Eventually you may find yourself getting tired of the overall look, so you will want to select pieces that can easily be updated with pillows, throws, and other accessories to create a new color scheme to freshen up your space.

You'll want your most expensive pieces to be the best quality you can afford. Your neutral color can be navy, gray, red, brown, green, yellow, or yes... even beige. It can be whatever suits your lifestyle. But also look to the future, so you won't be disappointed years down the road.



## Tip 4

### Style gives your home personality.

Style comes in all shapes and forms and reflects who you are. You may not know what your style is exactly and that's okay. You will naturally gravitate toward things you like that will help you discover who you are. If you are completely at a loss, well, that's where we come in. We can always guide you toward expressing your style by learning more about you. That's our job.

But nonetheless, everyone has style. Including you! Traditional, Transitional, Contemporary, Modern, Italian Country, Country French, Farm Style, Tuscany, Minimalist, Industrial, Shaker, Colonial, Mid-Century, and the list goes on.

With today's technology, you can easily collect photos of things you like by creating a Pinterest board for each room of your home. Then save photos of items you like to get your style juices flowing. Your carefully chosen furniture style will last the test of time and put you on a path to decorating success. You won't get bored with your look when you choose furnishings you love and will enjoy for years to come.

Style is your gateway to luxury design! It speaks volumes about you, who you are, your lifestyle, and gives your home personality. Take the time for self-discovery by collecting photos of furnishings you like before heading out to shop.



## Tip 5

# Fabric is the ultimate luxury!

Fabric is used everywhere in a home. You'll find it on windows for draperies and valances, towels in your bath and kitchen, bedsheets, pillows, comforters, bed skirts, area rugs, upholstered furniture and chairs, shower curtains, shades, and more.

Fabric softens a space, absorbs sound, keeps us warm, but most of all enhances our home experience. It adds comfort, pattern, texture, and, yes, luxury. You can use fabric to your advantage. Here are a few ideas to explore.

**Windows** are the perfect place to be creative to lend that luxury feel to a room, especially if you want to include custom products for your home. You should always begin with your end result in mind and figure out your specific needs for your windows as well as a budget you are comfortable with.

Ask yourself if you need privacy, warmth, light filtering, motorized, color, texture, and so forth. If you can splurge and invest in custom shades, blinds, shutters, draperies, or valances, well then, by all means you can do anything your heart (and budget) desires.



Custom is a different experience that gives you so much opportunity to be creative and have a one-of-a-kind look for a luxury home. You don't have to break the bank with custom. You can opt to have a simple valance or a pair of drapes custom made to make it easier on the budget. A pretty fabric with some custom detail or tailoring goes a long way.

**Bedrooms** are also a great place to get creative with fabric. Custom bedding will provide you years of service and enjoyment. With custom bedding, you can create a unique design, the ultimate experience in luxury. Custom provides a high-end look using quality designer fabrics and trims.



You can maximize your investment by being creative. For instance, you can design a reversible duvet cover (or comforter) to change with the seasons. You can have a spring/summer side, and a fall/winter side complete with coordinating pillows, bed skirts, and other soft home fashions.

**Upholstery** is another option for fabric. It's easy to change your entire look with fabric by reupholstering your favorite furniture pieces. We can make an old piece look just like new. Anything is possible. Small changes to skirting around a sofa or chair are possibilities too. Using more than one fabric, adding contrasting welting to trim a sofa or chair will give you those luxury designer details.



**Custom new furniture** through a designer offers the ultimate in luxury. There is no limit on what you can do and your fabric choices are endless. A designer will help you with tailoring details that you won't find in your local furniture stores, creating a truly unique experience. Getting creative with furnishings will set your home apart.



**Window seat cushions, chair pads, and upholstered headboards** will add a touch of luxury to a home too. These different products can be dressed with designer details. Add a contrast fabric to bow tie streamers on chair pads to tie in with a window valance. The same can be done for window seat cushions. Upholstered headboards can be designed with banding, tufting, edging, and more.

Decorator touches, such as nail heads, come in many sizes, colors, shapes, and patterns. Brass, copper, pewter, crystal, silver, nickel, stone, and others with decorative details are available. The list is endless with nail heads, which can be used on all types of upholstery, from furniture, to headboards, to cornices.



**Coordinating fabrics** to use throughout your home is key to creating a cohesive environment. I recommend staying with a color theme for each space and use fabrics as a tool to enhance your experience in your home.

**Ready-mades** are an option, when custom isn't in your budget.

I am noticing a lot of stores locally and online offering ready-made window coverings and bedding products in a variety of patterns, colors, and textures. A column of color or pattern from a ready-made drapery can give a tailored look to a room. You can get creative with ready-made drapes by drawing them back with a pretty tieback or decorative holdback or add additional panels to make them fuller for a custom look.

In a pair of curtains, you can put two patterned panels together with a solid one on the inside to create a little more interest and give a banding affect to the design. The point is, don't be afraid to experiment and get creative with ready-mades. It will help elevate your style and have your family and guests wondering how you became so creative. (Our little secret, I promise!)

If you take the time, you can get creative with ready-made bedding too. Many stores online and in-store offer a bed-in-a-bag package complete with a comforter, shams, and throw pillows, which takes the guesswork out of coordinating. You can do a little more on your own and start off with a comforter or duvet, and then tie in some decorative pillows and euro shams to put your own spin on a bedroom design. A little imagination will go a long way.



## Tip 6

# Details will enhance your home and elevate your style.

Some decorative faux painted and accent walls of various materials (such as stone, tile, and mirrors) will go a long way to customize a space. Bead board, chair rails, coffered ceilings, crown moldings, deeper baseboards, built-ins, and columns, to name just a few, are some other options.

Wallpaper is another great product to enhance a space. You can get creative with wallpaper as an accent wall, inside picture frame moldings, and dressed in a powder room or dining space. It's extremely durable and, like no other product, it can add pattern or texture to liven up a space.

Details go beyond four walls. The floor is another opportunity to be creative with tile and tile patterns. Even hardwood floors arranged in various patterns, such as herringbone, can be customized for a beautiful look.

And don't forget the ceiling! You can paint the inside of a tray ceiling, add decorative painting around a chandelier, or add some beams.

These are only a few suggestions that come to mind. There are endless possibilities. Explore your options and see what speaks to you. You can always find ideas online or from magazines, so do some research. Details make the difference and lend luxury accents to your home.



## Tip 7

### Accessories add the finishing touch.

No room is complete without accessories, but you will want to be sure they support your overall design. Aesthetically speaking, well-placed accessories can make or break your design. Accessories create interest and keep the eye moving around your space. Have you ever walked into a place that looks stunning? How did that make you feel? Great, I hope. Well, that's what accessories can do for your home too.



There are many opportunities for perfect placement items, such as lighting, lamps, and tabletop accessories, such as plants, decorative boxes, vases, and so on. Area and accent rugs strategically placed can bring in color and pattern where needed and will warm a space.

Wall art comes in many forms from paintings to framed prints, to wall plaques, and decorative plates. Family photos, personal photos, and personal effects are also accessories that can and should be included in your décor. I recommend placing them in a living space where they make sense, such as a family room or study.

Accessories tell your unique story and give your spaces personality. Keep in mind scale and proportions to avoid a decorating disaster. You don't want your area rug to look like a postage stamp. Don't hang wall art too high, when it

should be at eye level. Give some breathing room when hanging pictures. Group tabletop items to create interest, rather than spread them out.

We all notice when things are wrong, but never when they are right. Scale is the most important tool when it comes to accessories and furnishings. Get that right to get the professional result of a luxury interior.

## Tip 8

### Enhance your space with lighting.

Lighting is an important element to get right in a space. Task lighting under kitchen cabinets makes it easier to see in shadowed areas. Recessed lighting is popular for kitchens, baths, and great room areas to brighten them up. Lighting can be used to highlight artwork or to enhance a focal point in a room to create interest.

Bedroom and living room lamps are great for reading. Vanity bar and strip lights make it easier to groom in front of bathroom mirrors. Chandeliers, touchier lamps, floor lamps, up-lighting, down-lighting, and wall sconces all have their places in a home.



Lighting comes in many sizes, shapes, and art forms. It gives us an opportunity to offer some luxury in our homes. I often think of light fixtures as jewelry for the home. You can tie in lighting that has crystals to add an elegant detail.

For a Tuscan look, you might look for wrought-iron light fixtures with a scroll pattern. For a contemporary look, you could look for lighting with a geometric pattern to complement your interior design.

When you shop for light fixtures, you may find yourself overwhelmed with all the possibilities. Stick to your style or vision to narrow your choices to make selecting easier. Then purchase what you love. You'll find an enormous variety of price points to fit your budgetary requirements.

Like all accessories, lighting needs to be to scale to look right in your home. For instance, you need to know the proper dimensions of a chandelier to work over a dining table and the distance it needs to be from the table top or from the floor.

You'll find lamps are various heights and each should be selected for their intended purpose. Are they needed for reading, as an accent, or for a task? You won't want to choose a lamp for a table that is too small or too large, as it will look out of place. The dimensions of the table that it will sit on will help to determine that.

The takeaway here is that scale matters. You can always look to professionals to help you with that.



## Conclusion

Whatever your style, you will want to put some thought into every purchase you make. Details are important for a successful, well-designed space.

I hope you found my *Eight Ways to Luxury Design for Your Home* useful. Keep these tips in mind when planning your home's décor. And remember, if your interior enhances your experience at home, makes life easier, less stressful, and more enjoyable, it's a luxury!

If you need professional help with any of my tips or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me. I can help with all these services.

You can contact me through my website at [www.TerryKInteriors.com](http://www.TerryKInteriors.com), or call my office at 518-355-0063 to schedule an appointment for interior design services or custom products for window treatments, bedding, upholstery, or custom new designer furniture.

Enjoy your home the way it is meant to be.

Happy decorating!

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