

# Why Piecemeal Design Doesn't Work and What You Can Do about It

You've probably researched interior design spaces online. Or maybe you've poured through magazine photos of beautiful rooms, searching for ideas to use in your decorating. You dream of having a home that looks picture perfect, just like those you've found, but you're lost on where to begin. Aside from that, you already know it's one thing to find photos of things you love, but another to find and incorporate the ideas into a cohesive space for your home.

Many homeowners decorate in what I describe as "piecemeal decorating," which only provides mediocre results. It might work for some, but most of the time it doesn't. Here's why.

Decorating piecemeal will often take homeowners in different directions, creating a design that simply doesn't function well or make decorating sense. Decorating piecemeal means the homeowners are not focused on how they want their spaces to feel and function to fit their lifestyle and, in turn, this process doesn't adequately address their needs. It also doesn't provide an opportunity to be imaginative and create a space that feels and looks as aesthetically pleasing as it could.

Since in piecemeal decorating nothing is planned a head of time, purchases are made on an as-needed basis. For example, I often see homeowners purchase furniture to sit on, sleep on, eat on, or whatever their current need might be. They shop and purchase a "set" of furniture, because it is the easiest and quickest solution. Little thought goes into the purchase other than the fact that it's attractive, it serves its intended purpose and looks like it will fit their space.

The furniture is delivered to their home, and voila they have a place to sit, sleep, or eat. It doesn't take any imagination to decorate this way and, at some point, the homeowners soon realize that their living space doesn't look anything like the photos they've grown to love.

The list of decorating piecemeal includes any interior project that hasn't been preplanned. When piecemeal designing is at the forefront, homeowners cannot create a cohesive environment for living comfortably for their lifestyle.

Creating a design for your living space from the start is so utterly important to prevent costly decorating mistakes investing in furnishings and other interior elements that simply don't work.

Elements of a well-designed space begin with you, your family members, the way you live your lives, and a well-thought-out plan. Much of the decorating and designing ideas you find online and in magazines that are truly magnificent have more than likely been carefully planned by a professional.

A room that is pulled together from steps “A-Z” has the best chance of producing the picture-perfect results you are looking to achieve. Here is how I begin a plan to fit my clients’ lifestyle, to help overcome decorating challenges to get the best results for their homes.

When designing for my clients, creating a cohesive environment that functions well is my number one priority. I do this by learning as much as I can about a client through a lifestyle questionnaire that I provide them prior to our first meeting.

The initial meeting is where I walk through their home and discuss the homeowners’ concerns. I take notes and point out issues that need to be addressed that the homeowner might not be aware of. We will talk extensively, so I can learn as much as possible about their lifestyle and those of other household members. I will need to know details, such as how many people occupy the home, how they use their spaces, do they entertain, own pets, and other essential information.

I use the information I’ve collected to later prepare a written evaluation along with an action plan for the order of things to do to move forward to work or rework the design of their home. I provide suggestions on what to keep or use elsewhere, what to replace, recolor, reupholster, purchase new, and so forth. This document is mailed within three days following the meeting.

This assessment and action plan is a tool that my clients can start with to get on the right path for creating a cohesive design. Once the documents are reviewed, the clients can then decide how they want to proceed. They can address the areas they are ready to change in a way that works best for them. Or, they can request additional services to move a project forward.

My goal is to provide my clients with a truly unique experience and design, so I only work with a few clients at a time. This enables me to adequately devote my attention to each homeowner.

If you have a home that you feel may be piecemeal designed, or a new home that needs complete furnishings, this full assessment and action plan will be an invaluable tool to put you on a path for decorating success. I offer interior design packages to address everything I’ve mentioned in this article.

My “A Special Assessment for Your Home” interior design package is full of ideas that are personalized just for you. Some concepts you can implement on your own, and others I’d be happy to help with. My goal is to help you get it right from the start, or from where you are now to where you want to be.

Whether you think you may have made some design decisions that simply aren’t working, or if you’re ready for a fully serviced interior, I can help you design your home the way it was meant to be. My plan will help you begin to overcome decorating challenges that may have overwhelmed you.

Here are the details of what’s included and the design fees for my service package.

### “A Special Assessment for Your Home”

Each package includes the following.

- Lifestyle questionnaire to complete prior to our meeting
- One visit to your home for a walk-through
- A written assessment of issues to be addressed
- Suggested changes to improve your decorating lifestyle
- Personalized action plan for you and your home
- To-do list describing the recommended order to implement your personalized action plan

1–Room Package	\$325
2–4 Rooms Package	\$500
5-10 Rooms Package	\$750
Entire home, up to 4,000 sq. ft.	\$1050
Over 4,000 sq. ft.	Request Quote

Call 518-355-0063 to schedule your personalized, professional assessment. Let’s get started!

Happy Decorating!

*Terry Kral*

Interior Designer, Allied ASID

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*Terry K. Interiors*  
Express your style