

# CHIC DÉCOR

## **Design – Colour Consultations – Space & Furniture Planning – Window Treatments**

### Demystifying Pattern, Colour & Texture

Deciding on how much colour, pattern & texture to use in a room can be a daunting task, too much can be visually overwhelming and jarring, while too little can render a space insipid and lacklustre. Here are some tips to bear in mind when redecorating your home.

#### **Pattern**

First, consider the size of the room you're decorating, the larger the room the more pattern you can get away with and the scale of the pattern can also be larger. However, be sure to vary the scale of the patterns if deciding to use more than one, this will allow the one larger pattern to take centre stage and eliminate a room that is visually too loud.

For a smaller room you'll want to be more prudent with your use of pattern, stick to small or medium scale prints, and no more than 2-3. For traditional settings choosing tone-on-tone patterns or softer colour combinations will create a more restful and conventional space. However, if modern is more your style introducing one large scale print in the form of fabric or wallpaper will create high impact and drama (particularly if the colours are high contrast) and provide a definitive focal point.

#### **Colour**

Knowing what atmosphere you'd like to create in a room is key when faced with colour decisions. If having a high energy space is what you crave then consider either a complimentary scheme (colours opposite each other on the colour wheel) or a triadic scheme (3 colours evenly spaced on the colour wheel, such as red, blue, yellow). With either scheme, but particularly with a triadic scheme, using pattern can take the room from WOW to OW!! When in doubt stick to solid fabrics, thereby allowing colour to be the star of the show.

To create a tranquil space consider using a monochromatic (one colour in various tones) or analogous (colours that reside side by side on the colour wheel) colour scheme. Using colours that are similar to each other will naturally create a harmonious space. Further this effect by employing neutral tones or blues & greens for a truly relaxing environment. Incorporating tone-on-tone pattern is a great way to add visual interest and dimension to either of these schemes.

#### **Texture**

Whether in the form of fabric, floor or wall coverings, texture gives any room dimension and tactile interest. This is particularly important to give a room that "coziness" factor. Items such as wool area rugs, chenille throws, velvet sofas, etc. beckon us to touch and stay a while.

Texture is particularly important in rooms with monochromatic or analogous colour schemes. Because these rooms are more uniform in colour they require more texture and/or pattern to add needed visual and tactile appeal.

# CHIC DÉCOR

**Design – Colour Consultations – Space & Furniture Planning – Window Treatments**

Article by: **Margarida Oliveira**, designer and owner of **Chic Décor**, a full-service design and decorating firm. For design/decorating services, you may contact her at: **905 337 8463** or email at: [chicdecor@sympatico.ca](mailto:chicdecor@sympatico.ca).

Please visit her website at [www.chicdecordesign.com](http://www.chicdecordesign.com).

Article published in Home Works Magazine 2008.