

CHIC DÉCOR

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

Fall for New Décor

Now that the leaves are changing our thoughts turn increasingly to our homes to make them more inviting for our friends, family and ourselves. The holidays will be here soon enough and in order to get your home ready you'll need to have a clear plan of action as to which room(s) need attention and what needs to be done.

Autumn is a very busy time for trades, suppliers and contractors. This means longer wait times and if you don't act quickly enough you may be stuck with your old sofa or drapes until the New Year.

Assess Your Space

Since entertaining is key this time of year consider your main living areas and determine which rooms are in need of a facelift? Are the draperies and colour scheme dated? Do the sofas and chairs look worn out? If so, determine your budget and consider the following key points when developing your action plan.

Colour Palette

Depending on the room(s) your reviving you'll want to take into consideration its function as well as the mood you would like to create. If your focus is the dining room then consider warm, moody colours that invite cocooning. Reds stimulate the appetite, but also consider earth tones, burnt orange or deep mauves. Always consider the lighting in a room before making any colour decision.

Furniture Style

Is your style contemporary, traditional or transitional? Not sure? Look through magazines to get a sense of what appeals to you before you embark on purchasing any new pieces. Once you've determined the style you want, ensure that the new pieces will be in harmony with the existing furniture (if you're not planning on changing those pieces).

Fabric Selection

There's a sea of decisions when it comes to fabrics, what colour and pattern? Which fibres (cotton, linen, silk)? Then there's the wearability issue. Ensure the fabric selected is the appropriate one for the style, geographical location (for drapes), and the amount of use it will obtain. Choosing the wrong fabric can be a costly mistake; be extra careful.

Accessorize

Once the other elements are in place its time to accessorize. Purchase items that coordinate with your chosen colour scheme and use pieces that are in the right scale and proportion to the surrounding furniture; be sure to vary shapes for the most interest and drama.

CHIC DÉCOR

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

For quick autumn appeal fill up bowls with colourful gourds, scatter fall leaves on your dining table, set out some inviting throws and light some candles, and voila – instant fall warmth!

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.

Please visit her website at www.chicdecordesign.com.

Article published in Home Works Magazine 2007.