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INTERIOR DESIGN TIPS

BY ABHIK HASNAIN

IF YOU'RE MOVING SOON TO A NEW APARTMENT AND YOU DON'T HAVE LOADED POCKETS TO HIRE A DESIGNER, YOU'LL MOST PROBABLY WANT TO DO IT YOURSELF. YOU'RE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED BECAUSE YOUR PINTEREST IS FILLED WITH BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ACTUALLY PUTTING IN EVERYTHING, YOU'RE STUCK AND CONFUSED AND NOTHING SEEMS RIGHT. FOR



It's a safe bet and easier on the eyes to take it all in.

SPACE OUT OR LEAVE OUT:

No matter what, it's a big no to cramming a lot of furniture or small decoration pieces in a tiny space. If you can't space out the objects and create sufficient moving and breathing area in between, leave them out of the room. It makes the room seem wide open and gives out a welcoming look.

DECIDE ON THE FOCUS OF YOUR ROOM:

Similar to designing anything, the interior of your apartment shouldn't be pointless. If it's a living room, you want the focus to be on the sitting area; if it's a dining room, the dining table is the hero. Place them accordingly and make sure it's a planned flow and not just an abrupt addition in the middle of

LIGHT COLORS FOR SMALLER ROOMS:

The color of your room is one of the biggest factors working behind how it looks. Choose the right one and it'll look beautiful. Pick a weird combination and it'll get on everyone's nerves. For tiny rooms that might feel stuffy to you, pick a color that's light and whitish. It makes the area look open and welcoming rather than congested.

THINK SHADES AND COMPLEMENTS, NOT CONTRASTS:

Contrary to popular belief, a contrasting look isn't always the right road to take. While opposites can grab your attention and look nice, they sometimes make a room ugly for the exact same reason. Use styles and colours that promote each other and flow smoothly.



the room.

HANG ARTWORKS WITH THE RIGHT FRAMES, AT THE RIGHT PLACE:

Artworks can be amazing assets to any interior. But it depends on how you put them up and where. For example, if the room has a contemporary theme, a white wooden



frame would look much better than a metallic one. Also, remember that a picture is a huge attention grabber, putting it in awkward places with other stuff on the wall might ruin the entire view. Hang them in triples or singles on wide plain walls and they'll look wonderful.

NO EMPTY CORNERS:

To make your room look complete and give a satisfactory feel to it, fill up corners with small shelves containing short collections of books or maybe put in plants in small to medium sized vases. Either way, corners that are not empty, are pleasing to the eye. Don't miss this for your next interior design project.

WHEN IN DOUBT, KEEP IT SIMPLE:

Nothing beats simplicity when it comes to interior design. If there's not much to judge, there's not much to not like about a room. If you're confused about whether or

WINDOW SHOPPING

If you're designing your new house or simply replacing your medieval web-entangled shutters, there are many types of windows to choose from. Whether for natural lighting or ventilation or to get the ambience just right, it's important to know which type best suits your personal needs.

AWNING

This type has a hinge at the top and is usually rectangular and short. In Bangladesh, you'll find awnings in most bathrooms because a window near the top of the wall is great to let out hot air. Keep in mind this means only partial ventilation. But above doors or showers or other window frames, the awning is great for letting in sunlight and air.



BAY BOW

Delicate and ultra-chic, bay windows can cover an entire wall, right to left, top to bottom. These windows open outwards, giving your more space inside the house. While perhaps not a window-style by itself, bay windows are a combination of stationary windows in the middle and double-hung or casement windows on either side. Given their size, these could be difficult to maintain, which would completely defeat the purpose of having such elegant windows in the first place.



CASEMENT

A casement window either has a hinge on its right or left side. It usually has a crank handle that opens it outwards. The casement gets A+ for ventilation as well as low air leakage because the window can open all the way out or seal all the way around when shut. It also gets bonus points for excellent noise cancelling. On the downside, the crank tends to get annoying with time—too much effort to open. Casements are also suited for mainly outer walls.



FIXED PICTURE

Fixed windows have no moveable parts, but they commonly come in various shapes and sizes. A large picture window can let in maximum sunlight and views of the outside and a small one can brighten up a staircase. If you badly don't want a draft in your room, this is your guy. Since it can't be opened, you won't get any ventilation and it'll need to be cleaned from the exterior.



SINGLE OR DOUBLE HUNG

The double-hung consists of two moveable panels that both slide up and down, while the single-hung consists of a moveable bottom panel and a stationary upper one.

Cool fact about the double-hung: opening both panels at the same time creates a natural convection—hot air escapes out the top and cool air enters through the bottom. Unlike casements, these windows don't open outwards or inwards, but some might find the horizontal rail right in the middle quite ugly (think: train windows).



SLIDER

This window does exactly what it says. Sliders have one or two horizontally moveable panels. They're more common in modern-day houses and work great for verandas and patios.

Whatever you pick, remember that windows can always be decorated and customised to match the colour scheme of your room or the style of your décor. So spend an afternoon window shopping and hand in those cob-webbed British-era grills for something shiny and fabulous.

AMIYA HALDER



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