

FYI

My window to the world

Windows are an integral yet neglected part of our house that connects us to the outside world. Sliders have been the most used options. These are very common. Slide windows are more substance over style.

Whilst big broad windows might give you the most air flow, window options are seemingly endless. You can pick one type for your bedroom and another one for your bathroom. Point is, don't compromise on style.

FRENCH WINDOW

French windows are top pick here. They add a classy feel, bringing your house to life. They also allow much more light. French windows also look great in independent houses especially if they are overlooking a small lawn or a pool. As they are basically a pair of casement windows that extends to the floor of an outside wall, they can also be used as an opening to a balcony.

DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS

These are more common in western house designs are not used as often here. This type of window has two sashes that slide vertically up and down in the frame. They remain in the frame and can open wide from wither the top or the bottom. There is also the option to make them single-hung, where the bottom part of the window operated and the top stays stationary. They can easily be used in the kitchens and the bathrooms.

CASEMENT WINDOWS

This is a type of window that is attached to its frame with one or more hinges. These windows are hinged on the side, where the sash opens horizontally opposite the hinge. The opening from the top to the bottom helps with better ventilation and can be used for the living room or the dining space to create more air flow.

BAY WINDOW

These windows are built outward from an outside wall. They are usually a combination of windows often made up of a stationary window in the middle and flanked by either double-hung windows or casement windows. They give off a very Victorian feel and are very stylish. Bay windows are perfect if you want to give off a traditional feel.

PICTURE WINDOW

These windows are stationary and they do not open. Picture windows are perfect for replacing a wall in the living space of an independent house if that space overlooks a lawn or a pool.

Put in some effort when decorating and designing your house. A French window in your balcony or a casement window in your dining space would surely bring some much needed style to your home. Take the leap and change the entire outlook of your home!

By Lameya Alma Amin



DECOR

A gender neutral bedroom

Moving can be tough. Moving in with someone of the opposite gender can be an ordeal. Yet, with a little improvisation, it is possible to make Mars and Venus work together.

As far as décor is concerned, some men prefer streamlined furniture, leather accents, dark colour palette and lots of wood. Women on the other hand seem to like décor comprising patterns, pastels and lots of tufted furniture. Of course there are no general rules to any of it. The idea is to mix the two to achieve the perfect blend of the likings of both the partners.

Traditional décor always seems to align on one side, while modern gives you the freedom of mixing and matching, while adding some edge to your home. Keep sports collectibles and gaming devices to a minimum, along with floral patterns and laces. Stick to solid colours or simple patterns. The idea is to execute proper balance and modern décor does it better than traditional.

Colours are your new best friend. Just because it is a neutral form of décor does not mean it has to be boring. Any pop of primary colour can be used as long as they are carried out properly.

Yellows, fire engine reds, cobalt blues in art works, textiles and accent furniture will give your space that burst of solid colour you desire. Blue velvet arm chairs or red lamp shades is a good start.

Emphasise on jewel colours to create resonance and to make your home look like an ornament itself such as crimsons, mustards, emeralds and teals; but you have to make sure to keep the rest of the furniture to a minimal to make the jewel tones stand out. It's all about creating harmony.

Keep it natural, as such objects mature gracefully. Go for solid hardwoods, distressed leathers and hammered metal details instead of polished.

Splurge on art pieces like sculptures,

which come in more variety than just some chiselled figures. Lighting is used as a form of sculpturing; and a dramatic framed light can transform a space completely when set properly and can bring some life into a space.

Lights are usually the focal point of a room so if used with some planning, will bring your entire area to life. The objet d'art and the right use of art can create any look that you want to desire. Art



pieces can be three dimensional structures or wall hangings; these things are usually an easy way to bring in some neutrality.

Rugs, as far as decor is concerned, are a good choice. They will bring in the warmth and texture like no other, while proving comfort for your feet. Avoid dark monochromes or furry features. Stick to simple patterns to make it resonate with the main theme of the room.

Remember: proportions matter! While most might think the larger the couch the

more the comfort, it is not always as such. Mixing up big couches, small poufs, industrial chairs and some rattan can tie it all together.

Use contrast to add the extra bit of oomph to your keep your abode balanced and in harmony there must be contrast. Make sure there are some large focal points to grab attention, with smaller detailing around it for balance. Small tables and large chairs, big bookshelves with small accents, etc. contrast can also be done with patterns and art.

Large framed pictures with small artwork makes a good anchor without being too much and provides a clean sophisticated way for the right impression. Small pillows with large prints, small patterns on long drapes and so on.

Always start decorating with neutral colours and streamlined furniture. Then start adding the accents, jewel tones, artworks, etc. After you are done, you will have a strong background with soft detailing in your home, which will be the perfect match for your neutral abode.

Finally: detailing. Just like how you edit pictures for a flawless finish make sure to do some level of tweaking with your home. After it's all done, give it a nice look. See what is missing with your partner, so you can both point out things you do not approve of.

Low on budget for a complete makeover? Change the details. If you are confused with patterns, do not go overboard. Choose simple stripes or checks for the big scenario and throw in a little tropical pattern for softness.

The rule is there are no rules. The key to a perfect gender neutral abode is to throw all 'conventions' out the window. Start by blending your styles together to find the perfect match, curate your details, and create the most seamless unisex home.

By Anisha Hassan
Photo: Collected