

Top 6 mistakes people make while decorating their homes—and how to avoid them

SUUMIT ARORA

A well-designed house does not necessarily require lavish spending. Instead, what it really needs is thoughtful designing and meticulous planning. Many homeowners, owing to their lack of experience, commit mistakes in designing their homes. They either overdecorate their space or keep it too sparse and plain. Houzz's 2025 Home Design Trends capture this dilemma. The report found that many homeowners renovate for better aesthetics, but there is an equally strong demand for functionality. How you strike the balance is the key to contemporary homes that offer a personal and sustainable touch. If you too are on a journey to decorate your house, here are six blunders you must steer clear of.

1. Decorating without a story

You can have all the fine furniture, costly lighting and top-tier finishes in a house, and it will still come across as rather lifeless. What is usually absent is some kind of personal narrative. A room ought to be reflective of its inhabitants. There is an emotional quality to handcrafted items, family heirlooms, or a striking piece of art from one's travels that you will not find in any mass-produced setting. These are the things that give a space depth and tell a story.

How to Avoid: The way to put this right is to make your personality the focus of your décor. A well-chosen statement piece can do the trick. Take contemporary or generative art, for instance; when curated for the wall, it serves as the visual anchor for the whole room.

2. Treating wall art as an afterthought

It is common for furniture to be the first thing put in place, with any artwork left as an afterthought. One is then left with blank walls or some generic print that has no real connection to the room. Interior designers are now more likely to put one over the other and have you start with the art. A well-chosen piece can set the tone for the colour scheme and dictate what kind of furniture is called for, providing a unifying design language for the whole space.

How to avoid: The way to sidestep the problem is to make your selections on artwork early on. Whether it is a gallery wall or a large statement piece, such works give a room its own character. You can also choose online art curat-

Decorating is an art which has the power to transform homes into dream palaces



ing platforms that combine AI and museum-standard craftsman to ensure that one can find personalised works of art instead of generic mass-produced ones.

3. Chasing trends instead of timelessness

Trends in decorating have a way of turning over quickly, whether it is the vogue for boucle or an all-white scheme. To put an entire home in line with what is fashionable at the moment is to invite costly makeovers down the road. The data from Pinterest Predicts bears this out: homeowners are more inclined these days to put their own stamp on a space rather than follow the latest aesthetic.

How to avoid: The best course of action is to build on a foundation of well-made, timeless pieces with clean lines and leave the expression to your accessories. A change of art, some new cushions or a rug can add colour and texture for the season. In fact, there is no simpler way to put new life into a room than with a piece of artwork.

4. Ignoring scale and proportion

Dimensions should determine the pieces you pick for ornamenting a room – not the other way around. Visual balance is a key and must be preserved at all costs. Imagine what a 10X10 feet artwork in a 200 sq. ft. room will make it. Instead of making a statement, it will overwhelm the room and make it cramped.

Conversely, too small an artwork will vanish in the room, leaving walls empty and disconnected.

How to avoid: The luxury of a space is more a matter of proportion than of price, as any good designer will tell you. To get it right, let the room set the scale. A large work of art can be striking in a roomy living area; in a smaller one, a collection put together makes for more of an impression. And before committing to new furniture, mirrors or art, do the measuring on the walls so that everything is in harmony.

5. Forgetting texture and layers

It is all too common for a home to be defined by one material or finish; the result is an interior that looks flat, no matter how costly the furnishings may be. There is a visual richness to the more welcoming of spaces, which owe their appeal to a judicious mix of textures in wood, metal, glass, ceramics, textiles and art.

How to avoid: Layering natural materials with artwork and sculptural pieces is a masterstroke. A canvas print in a textured frame can add depth while also infusing a sense of warmth. Mixed media and other such décor are what make an interior feel truly sophisticated.

6. Choosing décor without considering sustainability

One can't overlook the role of sustainability in interior design. Still, it is common for décor to be bought



with little thought for how the product was made or where it came from. There is reason to pay more attention to such matters in the home. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) puts it plainly: the construction and building industry is responsible for more than a third of the world's resource use, a statistic that should prompt a shift toward sustainable design.

How to avoid: The way to sidestep this is to seek out brands that put responsible sourcing and ethical production first, as well as those who manufacture on order. One can also turn to online platforms which marry top-tier craftsmanship and digital innovation with a conscious approach to work.

Conclusion

A home of fine design does not come together in a weekend or the

course of one shopping expedition. It is something that develops with time, amassing the kind of stories and mementoes that put a face on its inhabitants. While you have your furniture for comfort and lighting to put the room in the right mood, it is the art that imparts a sense of personality. There is a move among homeowners for authenticity, for spaces that do not seem put together by an algorithm. In that respect, curation has never been more important. One should not be after an interior that is merely picture perfect, but one that is undeniably your own. Steer clear of the usual decorating pitfalls and put your money where it counts on items of substance, and the result will be a place that is as enduring and welcoming as it is inspiring.

(The writer is the Founder & CEO of Artitude)