

TOP 10 MAGIC DÉCOR TIPS

Create the space of your dreams with
our clever tricks for designing,
arranging and styling your home

BY ELLE LOVELOCK

CREATING AN INTERIOR YOU TRULY LOVE is about more than just choosing a colour palette and a few new on-trend pieces. It's a matter of getting the furniture arrangement right, ensuring there's enough storage for your bits and pieces and displaying your favourite items to perfection. In addition you want to instil a vibe that suits your personality, whether that be incorporating a touch of luxe or a sense of humour. Whatever space you have to work with, from a spacious family home to a bijoux apartment, here are our top 10 décor tricks.



TREND ALERT: ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING OMBRE!

Step 1

CAMOUFLAGE STORAGE

Get creative with subtle storage solutions. For example, a trinket box, like the green bone inlay box here, will hide away household bits and bobs like hidden treasure. This sweet box blends with the rest of the scheme and looks like an ornament rather than storage.

Step 2

UP THE NUMBERS

Individually, these candlesticks are quite formal, but en masse they become a cool style statement. Adding a couple of black candles to the mix increases the contemporary feel, too. You can use this 'multiples' trick on just about any group of everyday items. >>





⤴ **Step 3**

PLAY WITH SYMMETRY

A well-balanced room creates harmony and makes everyone feel at ease. And decorating with symmetry in mind is relatively easy, too – just buy in twos. But the magic really happens when you mess up your perfectly paired scheme. Start by arranging your furniture symmetrically. Here the pairs of armchairs and lamps are positioned just so, flanking a central sofa, but the artwork is displayed off centre. Place an odd number of different sized cushions in wild clashing prints and colours on the sofa, then sit back and enjoy the chaos.

Step 4

CHOOSE SOFT OPTIONS

When it comes to upholstered furniture, there are a few tricks to make a piece look more expensive. If you have the option of customising, add details like piping or extend/shorten the length of the skirt of a loose cover. Choose a contrasting fabric for the underside of sofa seat cushions (and flip them when you fancy a change!) or the back panel of an armchair for a playful surprise. To make a readymade sofa look more sumptuous, the key is to go large with the cushions – 50cm to 60cm is perfect. And swap polyester for feather-filled inserts – total luxe.



TREND ALERT:
PAINT PLINTHS TO
SUIT YOUR SCHEME

Step 5

EMBRACE IRONY

Some of the best interiors make you feel relaxed because they have a sense of humour - that little something that makes you smile. We discovered that small ornaments on plinths (actually, painted corbels) add just the right amount of grandeur to this wall.

Step 6

CREATE YOUR OWN VIEW

Most of us aren't blessed with stunning views so why not create your own! We're not talking murals; but do get creative with paint, like the geometric shapes on this wall. It's a cinch with masking tape. Set the scene with wallpaper or try creating a large-scale frame cluster. We've used, from top right-hand corner, Resene Shady Lady, Resene Nebula, Resene Butter and Resene Zumthor. >>

✧ **Step 7**

HANG IT

Instead of a table lamp, hang a pendant light over a console. Yes we've seen it in the bedroom above side tables and in the kitchen over benches, but it also works in living areas, creating more space to display accessories. There's a trick to choosing the right pendant light, too. Rooms with tall ceilings can handle a cascading vertical lighting design. If you have low ceilings, go for a lamp that spreads horizontally.

✧ **Step 8**

LEAN N' LAYER

Leaning an artwork against the wall isn't a new thing, but unless you have an oversized piece, displaying a single work can look a little stingy. The trick is to layer several pieces together. Create levels with a side table or console and lean some art up on the furniture and some on the floor beside it. To keep the look cohesive, group artworks with similar tones, like the black and white ones here.



TREND ALERT:
USE BUSY WALLPAPER TO PEP UP A SIMPLE SCHEME

⤴ **Step 9**

IF YOU CAN'T SPREAD OUT, GO UP
A small interior footprint needn't deter you from creating a dramatic décor scheme. If floor space is limited, simply decorate up the walls. Wallpaper and artworks are the obvious choices to add decorative interest, but for practical furniture solutions, consider tall and narrow pieces such as tallboy storage units and drop-front desks.

Step 10

DO IT YOUR WAY

While it's tempting to ditch everything and start anew with your interior, there are some pieces you should always keep - the ones that are of great quality or sentimental value that you truly love. At first glance, they may not suit your new scheme - like this vintage tallboy in the bright, modern setting - but if you love it, it'll work. And that's when you create magic. □

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