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How To Introduce Bold And Beautiful Designs Into Your Home



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Styling A Room? 5 Questions To Ask Before You Start

By Georgia James

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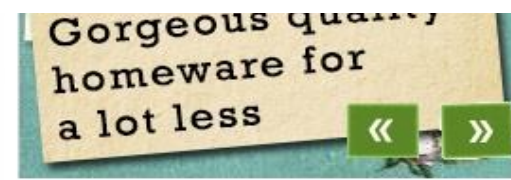
Whether you've just arrived in a new home or you simply can't bear to look at that wallpaper a minute longer, once the interior stylist in you rears its head, it can be hard to resist jumping straight in and letting rip.

But before you start whipping out your credit card or ripping out the carpet and throwing your worldly goods into a skip, you'd be well advised to take a few deep breaths and take stock of the job in hand. There's more to [creating the perfect room](#) than filling it with the things you love - it's about striking a balance of practicality, style and the best use of space. And the key to that lies in the planning.

"When designing or re-designing a space, take a moment (or a few) to step back and assess the area or space you are planning to re-invent," says Rebecca Tucker, interior designer and co-director of [Suna Interior Design](#).

"It may help to remove anything not fixed to the floor: furniture, pictures from the wall, curtains etc. This will give you a blank canvas and will help to open your mind to what the space may have the potential to become. This will also help you to assess what needs to be done and may save you from ripping out the flooring, for instance, that you may actually be able to or want to keep."

Ask yourself these five simple questions before you pick up a paintbrush and you will be well on your way to creating your dream space...



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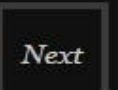
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How Much Time And Effort Can You Afford?

"Don't underestimate yourself. At the same time be aware of your capabilities," warns Rebecca. "If you've never hung wallpaper before, start with a plain paper and leave matching the patterns for when you're more of a pro."

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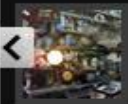
What Are Your Problem Areas?

"The feature items that you've selected should draw the eye in, and away from and tricky areas," says Rebecca.

She also suggests these tricks of the trade: "Paint the garish fireplace the same colour as your walls to help it to blend in to the room. Or select a really good, inexpensive rug – look out for great geometric patterns – that will draw the eye away from the floor beneath."

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What's Your Personal Style?

To find your own unique style, Rebecca suggests: "Take time to look for what you love. Pinterest is a great tool for this. Let your imagination run wild and let your style and design evolve over time. You don't need to collect every feature item at once – if your pieces are collected over time the design will ultimately tell your story, reflected in the space that you live."

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What Are Your Practical And Functional Requirements?

"A white sofa may look good, but sticky fingers and dog hair will have you keeping the cleaning product companies in business," warns Rebecca.

"Be aware of the pros and cons of your choices. For example scotch guard your sofa, place delicate wallpapers behind the bed (pictured) out of the way of everyday wear and tear. And if you have a darker room, ensure that your lighting is bright enough by using mood lighting, for example, feature lamps."



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