

Pemberly Furniture and Interiors

Getting the Look You Want

If you are intimidated by the prospect of decorating your home, you are not alone. The endless choices available to today's consumer can be overwhelming. To help you get the look you want, the designers at Pemberly Furniture and Interiors have put together the following suggestions.

Ask Yourself Some Questions

Think about places you've been recently where you felt comfortable—a friend's house, for instance, or a stylish restaurant. How did those places make you feel? What did you like about them? Ask yourself the following questions about each place:

- What was the color scheme?
- Was the room cluttered or spare?
- Was the furniture made of wood or metal, or was it upholstered?
- Would you describe the room as formal or casual?

For the next few weeks, continue to analyze your surroundings whenever you visit a new place. Then, bolstered by this new awareness of your likes and dislikes, make a list of the style elements you want to incorporate into your own home. It's also helpful to make a list of elements you want to avoid.

Pick a Style

Now that you know what you like and don't like, you are ready to identify the style that suits your taste. Having an official name for your style will help sales people zero in on the products that will work best for you. People who are seriously interested in interior decorating make fine distinctions between styles. French country, English country, cottage style, vintage retro, and Victorian are only some of the many possibilities. However, if your goal is simply to give your house a pleasant, coherent look, there's no need to go into such detail. Most likely, your tastes fall into one of four basic styles:

- Formal
- Traditional
- Eclectic
- Contemporary

Stay True to Your Style

People who enjoy spending time thinking about and decorating their homes will often mix and match furniture and accessories from the four basic styles. But if you are more interested in living in your house than decorating it, pick a style for a room and stick with it. Note that you probably will want to combine styles within your house (for example, a formal living room and a casual family room). Within an individual room, however, a single style is the surest way to create a pleasing interior.

Of course, you probably won't be able to redo every room in your house from top to bottom according to your chosen styles. For most people, decorating a home involves a series of purchases and improvements over time. To maximize your design statement, consider making your purchases in the following order:

- 1) Lamps or other forms of lighting
- 2) End tables and other accent pieces
- 3) Rugs or other floor coverings
- 4) Large items such as sofas, beds, and dining tables

While you are saving money to complete the look of a particular room, purchase smaller items (vases, mirrors, or picture frames) that can accentuate a room's style without breaking your budget.

These are just some ideas to help you get started. To learn more about decorating your home, consider scheduling a consultation with Scot Anderson, or one of our other fine designers at Pemberly Furniture and Interiors.