

A rustic home office with a wooden desk, a blue bookshelf, a wooden door with a wreath, and a large wooden grid on the wall.

WORTHING COURT

How to decorate your
home like you hired a
DESIGNER

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THE BLOGGER BEHIND WORTHING COURT

SO YOU'RE ALL READY TO DECORATE YOUR HOME?

Using these tips will help you get it right from the beginning and hopefully avoid time consuming and costly mistakes. Or, maybe you've already done some decorating, but something just seems off to you. When it comes to decorating your home, one of the biggest mistakes you can make is to not create a cohesive look. You need a consistent flow of style, colors, and patterns that work well together within the same room and from room to room. Often times, the problem is that while all of the individual elements might be pretty on their own, the room just doesn't look pulled together.

I've pulled together my best advice to transform your home into a cohesive and stylish home that will look like you hired a designer!



Suzy Handgraaf
Author Worthing Court

RECEIVE MORE OF MY DECORATING ADVICE AND
IDEAS ON WWW.WORTHINGCOURTBLOG.COM

GO

HOW TO GET STARTED

Before you can even begin to work on your room, you need a starting point. Refer to the suggestions for gathering inspiration in the green box below.

Once you've gathered all of your ideas and inspiration, lay everything out together. Take some time to examine the entire collection to see if you can identify a unifying color or theme that speaks to you. Once you've identified the style and colors that you want to incorporate, create a simple mood board that you can refer to and revise again and again.



FINDING INSPIRATION

If you have no idea what colors or style you want use, try these suggestions.

- Lay favorite clothing pieces out on your bed and snap a photo of them all together.
- Spend time on Pinterest gathering inspiration by doing a search for decorating ideas for the specific room you want to work in – ‘living room decorating ideas’, for example. Save the images that appeal to you to a board that you create.
- Save page tear-outs from magazines in a folder or notebook.
- Visit a fabric store and collect free swatches of fabrics that you like.
- Visit a home décor store and take photos with your phone of items that you like.

HOW TO DECORATE YOUR HOME
LIKE YOU HIRED A DESIGNER

CREATING A MOOD BOARD

Mood boards are awesome for getting a sneak peek into what your space will look like and whether or not you really do like all of those elements together. Learn to create your own mood board using the step by step tutorial found on my blog.



Click here to learn how you can create a mood board



BRUSH UP ON THE BASICS

If you aren't already familiar with the basics of home decorating, I highly recommend that you take a little bit of time to do some reading on color, scale, texture, style and pattern mixing and furniture arranging. Don't worry - I'm not talking about signing up for an interior design class. You can search for and find any subject online these days. Once you've educated yourself a bit, the difference will show when your room is complete!



Click here to see the evolution of a family room from major traditional to suburban farmhouse.



SELECT A COHESIVE COLOR PALETTE

One of the most important decisions you'll make is the color palette that you want to use in your home.

Choose a palette from a large piece, or your inspiration piece, that you'll be using in the room – preferably something that has multiple colors.

It could be a rug, sofa, drapery fabric, a large piece of art, etc. Pull the three main colors that you like from that piece - this will become your palette for the entire room. Can you figure out what I used as the inspiration for the color palette in my dining room?



Click here to tour a room with
a unifying color palette

FOLLOW THE RULE OF THREE

To get a cohesive look, you should use three main colors in your room. That doesn't mean that you can't use any other color in the room - it just means that you should concentrate on those three main colors. Once you've chosen the three main colors for the room, use the rule of 60 - 30 - 10 when adding those colors to the space.

That means that 60% of the palette will be the dominant color (such as the walls), 30% will be the secondary color (such as the furniture or rug) and 10% of an accent color (such as accessories and/or artwork). To select a neutral wall color, look toward the tones of white, gray or beige that are used in fabrics or artwork in the room.



MOST PEOPLE DON'T GET EVERYTHING RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

Don't put a lot of pressure on yourself! Even professionally trained designers don't always get it right the first time. Make sure to keep up with receipts and don't remove any tags from purchased items in case you need to return something that doesn't work in the room the way you thought it would.





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OUT HOW TO TRANSFORM
AN OUTDATED BOOKCASE

GO

GIVE YOURSELF THE GRACE OF TIME

Putting a well designed room together doesn't happen in a day! Probably not even in a week! Give yourself some grace by accepting the fact that it might take you months to get the room looking exactly the way that you want it to. Trust me, you can tell when a space is just thrown together.



PUT IT ALL TOGETHER



I hope you'll find these tips valuable when it comes to decorating your home! I've talked to many, many people and I believe that creating a well designed, but comfortable home is one of the most common problems that we home decorating lovers struggle with.

DECORATING YOUR HOME

Let's put it in a little list to make it easy to remember!

- Determine your starting point
- Brush up on the basics.
- Select a cohesive color palette.
- Follow the rule of three.
- Sort it out: 60 - 30 - 10.
- It's okay if you don't get it right the first time.
- Be patient with yourself!

