



Home Comforts



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Your home should tell the story of who you are, and be a collection of what you love' is a great starting point when it comes to the final stages of decorating your home. Some people find putting it all together tricky, and that actually finishing your home is the hardest part; but this is the icing on the cake! A time to relish in textures, materials and colour; to find a home for the wonderful things you have collected over the years, each of them reminding you of a happy time in your life – a particular place – or a particular person. Like every aspect of interior design, there are no rules, no 'right' or 'wrong' as this is your home, your place of comfort and security. So whether you love the shabby chic style or modern minimal style, this is the time that your personality shines through. If this is your first home, with only a handful of possessions, then it is also the start of a wonderful journey as you find out more about how you like to express yourself through your interior design choices.

CLOCKS AND CANDLES

As my teenage sons have grown up it has become more apparent that clocks and watches have rapidly lost their place as time telling devices, as nowadays mobile phones or iPads give a constant digital update (on

how close it is to meal times usually!), but I still find comfort in my ticking wristwatch and the huge clock that takes pride of place in the kitchen (set five minutes fast so that I have a hope of getting the boys out of the house and on to the school bus in time). Wall mounted clocks make a great focal point, modern or traditional, and can either be silent or tick away reassuringly. Mantle clocks are another option and small alarm clocks make a lovely feature on bedside tables.

Smell is a very important aspect of a house I always think – and can make a strong first impression. It is all very well if your home looks fantastic, but if it smells like rotten cabbage or mouldy drains, then that will certainly detract from the overall affect. Reed diffusers and scented candles should only ever enhance a home, and not try to disguise the dodgy drain issue (get a plumber!). Candles made with essential oils like these ones by Wildheart Organics (available at our Interiors showroom) fill a room with therapeutic and harmonising scents like juniper berry, lime and geranium, and cannot fail to lift your spirits and make your home smell delicious.

PRINTS AND PHOTOS

Simply framed photos or prints are a failsafe way of decorating your walls, either in colour or monochrome (or a mixture of both), hang them carefully and take time to use a tape measure and spirit level to get the positioning just right. Having said that, a random array of different sized frames can look just as effective if you prefer that style. Good quality, ready made frames are easily available, but if you have a painting or a photograph that you would like to invest in, then find a good framer who can offer

you the option of different glazing (UV protection for example) and who can mount the images beautifully and finish the backing with felt disks to avoid damage to the walls. I have recently commissioned Saltmarsh Coast Gallery to produce these incredible floating prints of local, coastal images which look fantastic – floating an inch or so away from the walls.

CUSHIONS AND THROWS

Less is more – more or less? Again, that's up to you. Cushions and throws are a great way to inject colour and interest into a room. You may invest in a plain sofa or chair but can then choose from a myriad of designs and fabrics to add detail, the same goes for your bed. If you want to match your cushions to your curtains, then I'm sure your curtain maker can rustle up some cushion covers for you or a local seamstress. Throws look stylish across the back of a sofa or chair, or the end of the bed, (we find these throws by Hop Design sell well) when not needed in the warmer months, and are then on hand to wrap yourself in when the autumn chill comes creeping – it won't be long now...

