



10 TIPS TO REDECORATE YOUR HOME FOR A FRESH LOOK BY MICHELE BAYLE

BONUS

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10 Tips for Redecorating Your Home

Looking for ways to spruce up the look of your home, but don't know where to start? Follow the advice of interior designer Michele Bayle. She's the owner of Bayle & Co. and offers 10 do-it-yourself redecorating tips. If you find yourself in need of additional help, schedule a consultation with Michele by emailing michele@bayleandco.com

1. Freshen It Up

Paint does wonders! If it has been about 10 years, it is time. It's amazing how different a space can look with fresh paint. Add some new pillows and a piece of furniture and you can inject new life into your space. In addition, update the flooring, either carpeting or new area rugs, every 10 years. Hardwood floors can be timeless, but if you are feeling like the color of the floor is dated, it can be sanded, stained and refinished for a more updated appearance.

2. Plan ahead for the seasons

Don't let decorating add to holiday stress. Give yourself about three months to make a plan and swap out seasonal items. Sometimes it's as easy as changing accessories like pillows, table runners, placemats and towels. You could also change draperies from a spring/summer look to a fall/winter look and dry clean the drapes after each season. Whatever the change entails, plan ahead and give yourself time to enjoy decorating your home, and, of course, the holidays.

3. Create a Tablescape

Tablescapes are a great way to understand your design style, pull together items in your house that you think would work on a table top. Maybe they are similar in color or theme, i.e. ocean related or glass objects. You will begin to see what coordinates. Even if you've never created a tablescape, you've seen examples, Pinterest and Instagram are full of fanciful ideas! Start creating yours by selecting items you'd like to display as either a centerpiece or a vignette on a sideboard or buffet. You'll want different shapes that allow you to balance the height and width of the display. For example, candelabras and tall vases offer height. The add items that are a step down, and so forth to create a feel of steps. Don't be afraid to mix patterns if they are in the same color way.

4. Find Balance

The fine line between "too much stuff" and "not enough stuff" will set the tone for how your home will "feel." Overdressing your home can make it feel cluttered and leave guests clamoring to get out of the space. On the other hand, not having enough design elements can make your home feel like a museum and give guests the impression it's "sit-still place." Finding the right balance keeps your house warm and inviting for you and your guests.



5. Add a pop of color

Don't be afraid to add a splash of color. If you've chosen a monochromatic decorating scheme you've got an instamatic neutral palate that works well with a pop of color. Start small and with an element that's easy to change if or when you tire of the color. For example, throws, pillows, draperies, area rugs and lampshades can all provide a temporary splash of color. Play with what works in your space and makes your heart go pitter-patter. Your home doesn't have to be dull shades of black, grey and white. If yellow makes you happy find a way to incorporate yellow in a way that makes you smile, in addition to feeling comfortable in your own home.

6. Change Your Perspective

Have you ever found yourself thinking about how much you'd like to recreate something you saw at a friend's house in your own home? While your friend might be a good source of inspiration, the style might not translate to your space. Change your perspective, get creative and explore how you can use elements that inspire you in a way that works in your home. Remember your home is a reflection of you - it should tell whomever visits that this is your style.

7. Narrow your interests

Having a wide-range of interests makes you fun party guest, but can be the cause of decorating challenges. It's okay to like lots of different things, but try to limit your design preferences to two styles or categories. Otherwise you might just give yourself a headache trying to combine a bohemian poof, tailored sofa and citrus green drapery. Different textures and color make our hearts go pitter patter, but sometimes it's good to reign it in a little bit.

8. Create flow

When decorating your house, consider the house as a whole, not as individual rooms. Find something, like a color or texture, to create flow from room to room. Rooms should not be designed as separate spaces but rather a pathway into the next room. If you have a red dining room, a purple bathroom and yellow living room because those are your three favorite colors, the space is likely to feel disjointed. It's okay to use color, but you need to find a consistent theme that moves from room to room.

9. Get a fresh set of eyes

Take a minute to picture the items you have in your bedroom. How many of them have been there for more than five years? Ten years? We get used to seeing certain things in certain rooms, to the point where they no longer hold our interest or catch our attention. Hiring a professional to recreate the space with existing items could be a perfect solution to a room that feels stale. An interior designer will be able to offer fresh ideas and a new perspective to change the look and create better flow throughout your home.



10. Find second-use items

Redecorating doesn't have to be an expensive proposition. In fact, you can probably scour your closets and second-hand stores for unique decorating accessories. Old handkerchiefs could become window coverings, mismatched utensils can be bent and used as hooks in the kitchen and old milk glass containers make pretty vases. If you're not creative in reinventing ways to use items around the house, ask a friend to help or hire a professional for an afternoon.

Bayle & Co. is a boutique firm specializing in residential and light commercial interior design. Owner Michele Bayle hails from Washington wine country, so it's no surprise that her designs reflect her deep love of farmland and the outdoors. Michele's mission is to create fresh, new ideas that reflect your best self by dovetailing a variety of styles and cultures, building on the innate strengths of each. "How you live and work in your space is essential to your creativity, comfort and productivity," she says. "I believe your space should be an extension of your personality."

