

# How to have a haute home look

YANIC SIMARD

## THE DESIGN FEED



Treat the walls, trim and ceiling in one uniform hue, and any flaws (such as uneven ceilings) are hidden while creating a

sophisticated base for the rest of the design.

Tip: Paint chips can be very misleading. Look for designer recommended colours that you love in real spaces, such as my go-to Classic Gray and copy them guilt free!

### Hands-on texture

Mixing and matching creates a true designer appeal, and this is especially important with textures. Mix in soft, plush, and rough fabrics (such as silk, velvet and burlap), as well as glass, metal, stone, or even plastics — the subtle contrast gives the sense of literal richness that translates to a luxe look.

Tip: A faux fur throw blanket can travel between rooms and seasons, from folded neatly at the foot of a bed to draped casually over an armchair.

Check out my Yanic Simard Selected accessory collection at YSSelected.com for a sleek aspen-inspired throw and other textural touches.

### Dazzling drapery

Your curtains don't have to be fully custom to look perfect but they may not be exactly right out-of-the-package either. With a sewing machine (or a reasonable fee from a seamstress), extend curtains with additional fabric so they can hang at ceiling height and reach just above the floor, emphasizing the height of the room.

Tip: Purchase the same curtain set in a neutral, and an extra set in a contrast colour for coordinating fabric in the right size. Cut, sew, and create a colour-blocking look that's classic but unique to you.

### Flowers

Accents such as flowers are often considered for special occasions only. However, even

just a small cluster of inexpensive blossoms can give a home that carefully maintained air which says you're celebrating your living space every day.

Tip: Carnations are a beautifully architectural yet inexpensive bloom, that you can easily pick up with your weekly groceries. Slip three into a small bud vase and put them anywhere — don't forget the bathroom or kitchen, to contrast hard surfaces with a touch of life.

### Finishing details

Mix up your pillows with prints in different scales (don't get too matchy-matchy!). Try a demurely exotic tiger-print pillow from my YSSelected collection.

Find aged books at a used book store, remove the dust jackets, and stack them to create a stately accent.

New lampshades give lamps an instant makeover. Choose a simple white shade in a block form (a cylinder or

square) to contemporize older bases.

Hang a mirror as a focal point in a living room or foyer and it expands the space while doubling as decoration of its own.

Anchor a room with a rug. When in doubt, an organically shaped cowhide can fit into any space, or sit over another carpet for a luxe layered look.

Or, to really get the perfect polish, setting aside part of your budget to work with a designer (either on a long term or consultation basis) will help avoid costly mistakes, and maximize the value of all your other investments.

For more haute home inspiration and design help visit TIDG.ca, and don't forget to share your essential decor tips with me on Twitter and Instagram @yanicsimard!

— Yanic Simard is the principal designer at the award-winning Toronto Interior Design Group (tidg).

ca) and a regular TV design expert on CITY's Cityline. Check out his accessory line at [www.yssselected.com](http://www.yssselected.com).

### Quick Bites

1. Start with a designer-fav paint colour on walls, ceiling, and trim, like Benjamin Moore's Classic Gray.
2. Mix textures for a subtly diverse palette—try tossing in a faux fur blanket.
3. Extend readymade drapery with extra material for a regal floor-to-ceiling installation.
4. Make a point to include fresh flowers, like colourful carnations.
5. Style your space with designer-secret curiosity accents or one of a kind decor items

We all want that big budget look but in design, it's not always about what you spend!

Getting those perfect finishing touches that makes a home feel high-end takes a little design know-how.

To get that polish that reads "magazine-ready", forget about the price tags, and instead take in my top 5 tips for giving your space a designer appeal — one that's worth spending some quality time in.

### Seamless paint

It can take a little elbow grease but a simple paint scheme immediately refreshes a space, even if the change doesn't seem radical (like updating a dated shade of beige to a more contemporary taupe).



Anchor a room with a focal point.



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