

Warming up your decor



YANIC SIMARD

THE DESIGN FEED

Got a bad case of SAD (seasonal affective disorder)? Turn that SAD into Seriously Artistic Decor, and then get happy to spend some time indoors!

I've got many tips to help warm up your interior—and a few of them may really surprise you. The best part? They'll all still look in-season when the summer months roll around, so you can splurge on a few gift-to-self's now and enjoy all year.

Two-for-one

Electric fireplaces add visual warmth and true heat, making them a perfect two-for-one special. To get maximum warmth from yours, try combining a minimalist modern unit with a reclaimed wood floating mantel shelf or full mantel unit — it'll give inviting appeal even when the flame is out.

Many modern electric fireplaces use simulated flames, paired with a gentle heater, making them even more safe for families (and very cost effective). Try one with LED options in changeable colours so you can use it as a fun moodlight even in the summer months.

White winter

White is the colour of icicles and snow flurries — but it's also the colour of bright sunlight and Miami beaches. We all react to different hues in different ways, but to me a few pops of crisp white adds a sense of freshness and even warmth to a room, especially when paired with a deep moody wall hue.

For true ski-lodge warmth, add soft white via interesting textural objects, such as shapely vases, worn-in antiques, and fresh blossoms. (Tip: Put some on your new reclaimed wood mantel for a perfect contrast!)

Color therapy

Colour therapy

Fresh white is an easy addition to any room, but if you want an even bigger shake-up, a splash of vibrant colour can go a long way toward making a whole space feel new again.

Beautiful blue is technically on the cool side of the colour wheel, but cheerful shades of it make most people smile (it's a popular favourite hue), which can make your home feel cozier.

Adding artwork of landscapes can help simulate the mood lift from looking out a window — try hanging an oversized print of a sunny vista so you always have a nice view even on the darkest winter evenings.

Pull up and pile on

Company's coming? Try pulling your seating in toward a fireplace or simply the middle of the room. Taking just a little time to bring the seats together into a more intimate arrangement can make a room feel much more snug — you may even decide to leave it that way for a while.

QUICK BITES

1. Add an electric fireplace to virtually room, and layer on visual warmth with a reclaimed wood mantel.

2. Include white accents for sunny freshness, like these eclectic textural vases from Urban Barn.

3. Beat winter blahs with summery blues — any hue that makes you happy will add a sense of warmth, even it's a "cool" colour.

4. Pile on interesting pillows to enrich your texture palette and make your space warm to the touch as well as the eye.

5. Design find — the stylish heated throws from Sunbeam, in ski-lodge-chic faux furs.

A room can never have too much texture. Pile on extra pillows and use them as an opportunity to add interesting new textures, such as chunky knits, boiled wool, shiny sequins, or humble linen.



Yanic Simard warms things up on the set of a recent *Cityline* episode by displaying a faux fur, heated throw.

Top it off with the Sunbeam Faux Fur Reverse To Sherpa heated throw from my recent *Cityline* set — such a hit with my team and the audience alike, and a perfect warm wintertime escape.

— Want more ideas for cozying up your home through design? View Yanic's project portfolio at TIDG.ca or find him on Twitter and Instagram at [@yanicsimard](https://www.instagram.com/yanicsimard).

Change your design with the season



LINDA MAZUR

DESIGNED FOR LIVING

Autumn was lovely and winter started with a cold, snowy blast, what better time to indulge in the many joys of decorating.

We just have to look to the "great outdoors" with its abundance of inspiration and it's easy to become motivated to create a new look for our home.

The array of colour alone is enough to inspire creativity and change. In fall, the wonderful shades of oranges, cranberries and golds we find in nature blend beautifully with the deep navy, muted azure

blues, earthy reds and washed out purples and plums that are trending this year.

The cool, light palettes that many of us seek out when the weather is warm gives way to deep bold tones that usher in a time to return to the indoors.

A change in season is not just about amazing colours, it's also inspiring textures and layering. Just as we layer our attire in fall and winter fashion, both for warmth and aesthetic, so to do we in the design and décor of our homes.

Add a pair of side panel drapes in a lush velvet fabric

to your windows layered over your simple sheers or blinds; or perhaps a textured wool throw blanket draped over the back of your chair.

Look to layer your accessories as well. A metallic tray might be just the thing on your coffee table with a stack of books, floral detail and a great abstract "objet d'art".

This is a time when less does not always equal more. In the heat of the summer, we desire the airy minimalistic look, just like our wardrobe; but as the weather changes, a warmer cozier look becomes more desirable.

Toss cushions on our sofas in an assortment of patterns and colours, opulent metallic finishes on our accessories, great textured and weathered finishes mimicking nature — all this becomes more prevalent in the aesthetics and décor of our homes.

So, add a bit of interest to a

boring hallway with an inexpensive patterned runner, then wallpaper a small section of wall behind your hall table and mirror combo to create a lovely little vignette.

Continue the layering process by adding in a small patterned chair or ottoman, and a few accessories on the table, and before you know it, you have created an impactful entrance to greet you and your guests.

If you are comfortable with a more neutral minimalistic design palette, then stay with it, but definitely have some fun with textures and patterns; and perhaps a little bit of metallic woven fabrics, lush faux furs or rough-hewn wood will find their way in to your décor and create for you a classic, sophisticated elegance.

The fall/winter season is a favourite of many, so next time you're out for a walk, take a good look around at the



The cool, light palettes that many of us seek out when the weather is warmer give way to deep bold tones that usher in a return to the indoors.

changes happening in nature and find your inspiration — bringing the outdoors in!

— Linda Mazur is principal of the Linda Mazur Design

Group and is known for designs that reflect a rich elegance, timeless style and optimal functionality. For more information, visit www.lindamazurdesign.com.