

Designer Q&A

It takes time to develop confidence in your decorating ability, so it pays to listen to the experts. These professionals were happy to share a few tried-and-true tips.



Anna Harrison

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What is the best decorating advice you've ever been given?

Form follows function. As designers, we craft an infinite palette of possibilities into something that specifically meets the client's needs. The process and the results are very visual and, in general, it is hard to detect problems with the functionality of a space from a glossy magazine shot – these are things that only become evident under the stress testing of everyday life. Colourful cushions come and go, but a leaking roof is forever!

What is the one tip you'd pass on to anyone looking for decorating advice?

If you are embarking on a decorating project for the first time, and are feeling overwhelmed, take some time out and go look in your closet. Your wardrobe provides an accurate reflection of the styles and colours that you are naturally drawn to. With this in mind, you are well positioned to begin your adventures in design.

Sally Anne Cottle

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What is the best decorating advice you've ever been given?

Don't buy any thing for your home you don't love. And when you see something you love, do whatever you can to buy it, you won't regret it!

What is the one tip you'd pass on to anyone looking for decorating advice?

Define your style clearly – there's so much advice I could pass on, but I feel this is one of the most important things. A mood board of your favourite rooms will give you a direction and help to cull the mistakes. Remove anything that doesn't fit with your overall style.

