

HOW TO MAKE A HOUSE A HOME

INTRODUCTION



The interior designer is a big believer in simply creating a home that suits our needs and supports our lives. A home should be something much more personal, says the author of Home Space.

"There isn't a family unit we call nuclear any more and everyone seems to run their own lives, in their own way, with their chosen places of habitation reflecting their lives, their families and their styles," Palmer says.

"I avoid trends like the plague. I don't think chasing a trend in a slavish way is productive in terms of expressing your own sense of self. There are always good things to find in trends. You can pick pieces out of a trend you like and interpret them in your own way for your own family."

He says his latest book was a sensible extension of his first, Easy Luxury. "It made sense to look at how you apply all the fundamentals of the first book in the real world so this book is based on case studies and focuses on commonality on each project and the differences that are a reflection on the design briefs.

"Everybody's brief is going to change the outcome, but the fundamentals stay the same.

"The more planning you do and education you have and the more you lay it out and test it before it goes into reality, then the more successful you will be."

Palmer shares more about his own home, shared with husband Olivier Duvillard and son Hugo, below:

My home is homely, friendly and comfortable. We have pets and a child so we don't worry too much about stains or spills. The house is clean and tidy, but also pre-reno, so we're not too bothered if things don't look like a photo shoot is just about to happen.

My design process is pretty intuitive. I get a feeling for people and what they need and usually ideas are bubbling just below the surface. Sometimes things take a little more exploration which is totally fine too. All good design goes through iterations and refinements to get to the finished outcome.

The last thing that inspired me was having a break. I've been to Audi Hamilton Island Race week last month and earlier this year was in Fiji at the Intercontinental, a place I'll be back to later in the year as I loved it so much. I think being able to step out of work and have a calm mind pays dividends.

The mass of choices overwhelms people, says Palmer. The answer is to start with what you need from your space.**FELIX FOREST**

My little luxury is sleep. There's nothing quite like an early night or waking up later on a weekend or holiday. Afternoon naps are totally underrated too.

My biggest influences are my family, nature and the work and businesses of people like Christian Liaigre or Tom Ford. Being able to build a brand and such a substantial array of design IP is absolutely inspiring.

Colour is subjective just like music. The way people perceive things can be grouped together by trend or style but no two people see colour the same way, just like we all get different experiences of music.



The best designs are the most refined. Simplicity doesn't come from the easy answer, it usually comes from being reworked, recreated and refined.

I often get asked "where do I begin?". The mass of choices out in the market overwhelms people but the answer always is to start with what you need from your space, and what your family needs too. Defining a brief is the answer, narrowing your field of vision to a more manageable array.

Not many people know I am also good at - I wouldn't say I'm good at it but I cut my hair and Olivier's as well. We have the same haircut, roughly speaking, which does tend to make us look a little too similar, but it's a good cut and only one of two that I know.

FIVE TIPS FOR CREATING A HOMELY SPACE

1. **Layers** - layering in textures and fabrics adds softness visually and physically. Think soft furnishings, rugs and drapery.

2. **Contrast** - the difference between big and small scale, smooth vs textured, new and old together, creating a play between light and dark, all these things create contrast in your space. Don't forget about colour, texture and pattern for an opportunity to add contrast to your interiors.

3. **Complement** - tying together elements is what really finishes a room. You can add in more layers and more elements if you just tie them all together by using different amounts of the same treatment in smaller ways in different locations. What that means is if you use a lot of, say, emerald green in one place, you use just a tiny little bit of it somewhere else within your line of sight.

4. **Impact** - Every good room has a focal point. It could be a fireplace, an artwork or an architectural feature, or even the view, but look for things that really pop as they are the things that elevate your rooms.

5. **Personality** - A sense of "you" needs to be represented in your spaces. This is as simple as layering through objects from your travels and things that have some sentimental value to you. Working them into your styling vignettes adds life to decoration and also can really make your sentimental pieces shine.

Make It Functional



What you put inside your house can make the difference between whether you enjoy spending time there or not. No matter the size or style of your home, incorporating your personal style matters the most. Follow our simple tips to transform your house into a home that's the right fit for you.

If you love to cook, don't put away all your utensils and appliances; incorporate them into your home's design. Fill large, colorful jars with the items you use most.

Add Warmth



Sure, expensive furniture and a spotless home are appealing, but that won't add warmth. Fill your most used spaces with plush rugs, throw blankets and comfortable furniture the entire family can use.

Dress Up Empty Walls



A collection of picture frames can make a room feel cluttered. Instead, display family photos, kids' artwork and memorabilia from your travels on blank walls. It takes but a few simple steps to spruce up and breathe new life into your home. Read on to see how you can add a new flavor to your home without spending any money! You'd be amazed at the

resources you already have sitting around collecting dust. Now it's time to put them to use.

Make Guests Feel Welcome



Nothing makes a house a home more than when your closest friends and family visit. Place comfortable outdoor furniture and lush plants on your porch to make guests feel welcome before they walk in the front door.

If you don't look like you actually live in your home, you won't want to spend time in it. You can keep things organized, but you don't have to necessarily put everything away in storage. Showcase your hobbies, display fresh florals and collect furniture over time instead of buying matching sets.

Add Personality to Every Room



Unless your personal style is a cohesive, minimalist look, give each room personality with a different color palette. Add color by painting the walls or adding bold furnishings. Each room's color palette should reflect its functionality.

Nothing will make your home feel as welcoming and cozy as the smell of freshly baked goods. You don't have to spend hours in the kitchen baking — just light candles around your home that smell like your favorite dessert.

At Habitat for Humanity, we build. We build because we believe that everyone, everywhere, should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. Habitat empowers people to become homeowners. Through shelter, we empower people to build a better future for themselves and their families.

THANKU

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