

Mindful shopping for the home and the soul...

BY ROSS ENDICOTT

Are you changing spaces, refining an existing structure, or moving into something new that you want to make your own? Creating a home that reflects your tastes can be challenging, but also very rewarding. Is your challenge one of big ideas but a small space? Or do you want your space to express who you are and how you want to be understood?



Color, lighting and placement of books, artwork, photographs and other accents reflect your taste and make your house feel like home. For a warm and friendly atmosphere, keep things straightforward to avoid making others strain to understand your point. Strive for simplicity; let your visitors see a link between you and your décor.

To get from your aspirations to their fulfillment, invest the time to consider what you want from the space, identify those things that thing put you at ease, and remember that what you do can set the tone for how your visitors may feel. In the end, your efforts should reflect your tastes, your travels, your preferences – and all those intangibles that make you – you.

Whether you love to shop or dread it, shopping for your home can be a journey with high stakes. To make the most of your living space and expenditure, be thrifty with your use of space and budget. Try to use as few resources as possible to achieve the look you want, and expect to enjoy the benefits of your redesign for many years.

Be prepared when you shop, and remember to have with you measurements and

locations of rooms, windows, doors, fireplaces and lighting. Be sure to take along samples for color and texture. Digital photos, either on your camera or printed out, can help you to communicate with salespeople. Those photos, along with dimensions and extra information, can make all the difference between shopping with confidence and feeling lost.

Be open to designs and styles you might not have considered before. Try mixing styles instead of matching all your chairs and side tables. Furnishings that compliment each other without matching perfectly offer the chance to move in something new, take things to other parts of the home, and allow for more freedom when polishing your overall look.

While shopping, record as much as possible about items you consider buying, and take home photocopies, dimensions, finishes and any other information the store can provide. Some stores may even permit you to take digital photos of pieces that interest you. In addition, showing a salesperson items you already have or may purchase elsewhere, can help to focus your search for similar items and save you time.

When you get home, consider what works and what doesn't, and don't be surprised if you change your mind several times. Furniture that is well made and carefully purchased should last many years. Taking time to consider each purchase and its role in your home may seem like work, but ultimately the time and effort you invest will exert direct impact on how well the décor appeals to you and your visitors and how comfortable you feel in it.

Let your home reflect who you are and what makes you feel comfortable and balanced in life. Your home is your sanctuary, a place to be mindful and think with great clarity. Love the home you're in!

For more information, contact Ross at Endicott Home Furnishings, 717 US Route 1, Scarborough, or phone 207-883-3264.

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