

Home Connection

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The Best Home Decorating Ideas of All Time

Create a "Bouquet" of Colours

Want to make a variety of bright colours cohesive? Think about how you would arrange a flower bouquet. "The same can apply to space, but you need to find a connection.



Installing Shiplap?

If your abode needs shiplap, you're usually best off installing the boards horizontally rather than vertically. "It can really expand a space, making it feel larger than vertical boards can," says Jason Arnold. "Horizontal boards also feel more contemporary." Vertical boards, however, can be ideal for rooms with high ceilings.

Don't Sacrifice Comfort

Sure, your eyes may want the most modern, chic couch in the showroom. But your back may not. "In my experience, it's really better to test out seating and take the time to look at the dimensions," says Sharon Blaustein. If you're tall, for instance, you might want to opt for a depth of between 40 to 42 inches for a sofa (rather than the standard depth of 36 inches).

Always Shop for a Rug in Person

This is not the time for e-shopping, people. "It's just so hard to tell on a computer screen what the colour really looks like," Arnold says. "You might think it looks red, but in reality, it's watermelon pink." Not to mention the texture of the rug may be totally different than what you were expecting.

Let a Locale Inspire Your Space

It's exactly what Jenny Cipoletti, founder of fashion, beauty and travel blog "Margo & Me" did in her decidedly Parisian office (which is actually in West Hollywood). "Just like when you walk into a café in Paris, and you see all the details and the golds, silvers and light blush tones, all of these elements in this space really sing to me," says Cipoletti. This lets you travel to your favourite destination without stepping outside.

Never Settle on One "Look"

Allow your space to continuously change - as your life does. "Remember that your home should always be evolving, just as you are," says Kelly Framel, creative director, stylist and founder of online magazine "The Glamourai". "I am constantly picking up new treasures on my travels. Your nest should always be a place of comfort and inspiration, and it's a constant work in progress."

Use Curtains as a Backdrop for Art

Instead of hanging a painting on a bare wall, accent it with a rich, velvet curtain background. "Curtains just create a great, calming energy in which you feel very shrouded and comforted, making for a luxurious and restful environment," says Framel. "And being able to put a really great pop of artwork in front of that textural coloured backdrop has a lot of impact."

Upholster Antique Furniture with Modern Fabric

Make what's old new again by invigorating antique pieces with colourful fabric from the 21st century.

Need Texture in a Room? Add Faux Fur

Faux fur has quickly become a luxurious way to add a bit of depth and variety to a space. "When we use faux fur, we're looking for some really luscious texture in the room," says Erin Gates. "If you look at a space and everything is neat, tidy and clean, you want something that's sumptuous and cozy. It'll really elevate the space".

For full article go to: http://www.elle

ays to Reap the Benefits: Kitchen Gardens: 12

What's the difference between a kitchen garden and a vegetable patch? The biggest difference is that the kitchen garden, or potager, is both productive and beautiful.



Design and Layout

- Think about the shape of the beds
- Paths between the beds need to be clear and clean
- Arrange plants in blocks or very neat rows for an attractive appearance
- Containers are great, not only are they ornamental and provide year round structure but they're also perfect for growing in.

Decorative Plants

- Grow neat box bushes around each bed to give a crisp edge, or use painted timber boards
- Mix flowering plants in with your edibles for extra colour

- Grow what you like to eat, and include salads and vegetables like chard, runner beans and different types of lettuce that look attractive, too.
- Evergreen herbs like rosemary will give year round structure and are good for the end or middle of beds.
- All herbs are pretty so put in as much as you can of parsley, chives, dill, sage, basil, tarragon, mint, rosemary and thyme.

Finishing Touches

- 10. Finishing touches really do make the difference between a worka-day veg patch and a pretty kitchen garden.
- 11. Galvanised or zinc containers create a shabby chic look. A row of galvanised watering cans is both useful and ornamental.
- 12. Try hanging colourful bunting across the area or decorating it with lovely lanterns and bird feeders. For full article go to: http://bi

Home Sales Soar to New Record in May

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) announced a total of 1,539 homes were sold in May, an increase of 33.4% over the same period last year. This represents the best results ever for May, and the highest monthly home sales total ever recorded, since LSTAR began tracking sales data in 1978*. "We're experiencing a very strong marketplace, with the fifth consecutive month of record sales," said the President of LSTAR. "REALTORS® are still seeing multiple offer scenarios and interest from outside the region. When you factor in the region's low unemployment rate and continued job growth, the economy is firing on all cylinders. This year, year-to-date home sales are already 27 percent ahead of 2016." The average sale price across London and St. Thomas was \$344,815 down 0.6% from the previous month. The average year-to-date sales price was \$330,890 up 18.6% from the 2016 average home price of \$279,057.

2017 Average Prices (YTD)

Туре	Average Price	Increase from 2016
Detached	\$356,657	21.3%
Condo	\$233,459	16.1%
Total Residential	\$330,890	19.8%

Breakdown of May Residential Sales De Units Sold Aver

Туре	Units Sold	Average Price
2 Storey	408	\$484,877
Bungalow	227	\$278,216
Ranch	173	\$406,440
Townhouse Condo	154	\$212,592
High Rise Apt. Condo	106	\$232,806

St. Thomas also had a very healthy May, with a total of 115 homes sold, down 0.9% from the same time last year. The average home price in St. Thomas was \$259,491 down 4.0% from the previous month.

No Hot Pets

The summer can be a wonderful time for you and your pet. It's also a time where you need to be careful of the dangers surrounding your animal. You can help spread the word by sharing how deadly it is to leave your pet in your vehicle. The award-winning "No Hot Pets" campaign, created by the Ontario SPCA, aims to remind pet owners of the dangers of leaving pets unattended in a vehicle during the hot summer months. Through the No Hot Pets online forum, citizens are asked to share the posters and leaflets about the dangers of leaving pets in vehicles. In addition, pet owners are asked to take the online pledge to not leave their pets in their vehicles. Lets work together this summer to spread the No Hot Pets message and save lives!

http://support.ontariospca.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=nohotpets homepage





