

## **Decorating (or Redecorating): Where Do I Begin?**

### **Start by identifying what appeals to YOU.**

- Flip through your favorite design magazines and earmark *anything* that appeals to you - don't filter out things that you think won't work in your room - go with your initial reaction.
- Tear out the pages and place them in a notebook or keep them in a file.
- Review the pictures and let the images provide you with a starting place for your vision of what you'd like the room to be.

### **Spend time thinking about the following:**

- What are you going to use this room for?
- Who is going to be using the room?
- Will children use this space?
- Will be pets allowed in this room?
- How do you want the room to "feel"?
- Will there be a television in the room?
- Do you need storage space or a display area?
- How much seating will you need in this room?

### **Begin by selecting at least one of the room's more expensive items - usually a sofa, rugs, or the window treatments.**

- If you can't afford to redecorate every few years, go with neutral colors for large upholstered pieces (like your sofa).
- Use the hot new colors in your accents (like pillows or throws), so that you can easily replace them when trends or seasons change.

### **Draw a floor plan of your room to scale.**

- Mark off the intended location and make sure each piece of furniture will fit the space. (before bringing it home.)
- Remember to consider the width of door openings and stairs (especially if there's a turn) for larger pieces.

**When choosing furniture consider the scale – how high, how deep and how wide each piece is.**

- If you want a serene feeling, look for similarly scaled furniture.
- When furnishings are out of scale— the rug is too small for the space or one piece of furniture is too large — the room won't feel comfortable.

**When you're purchasing furniture, don't settle for something that's not what you want -- you don't have to purchase an entire roomful of furniture at once.**

Establish the basic look and feel of the area, and let your style and décor evolve over time.

**Choose a paint color for walls that enhances the look of these expensive items and contributes to the mood you're trying to create.**

Remember, the goal of the paint color is to make everything else in the room look good!

**Remember that a beautiful home has a sense of continuity as you move from room to room.**

Maintain similar tones and themes throughout the house, or ensure there are elements that continue from one room into the next.

**Pay close attention to the lighting in the room.**

- Make sure that you have task lighting focused on what you'll be doing in the room.
- Incorporate table lamps, sconces, floor lamps and library lights to create interest in different areas of the room.
- Convert your light switches to dimmers to ensure the appropriate ambiance.

**Be brave and stick with your original vision, provided you've given it careful thought. If it's a chocolate brown family room you really want, beige will never do. Go for it!**