

Quick: What's the purpose of accessories? Believe it or not, they do much more than make a space look pretty, although they certainly do that. Baskets or decorative containers can function as storage. Large pillows, throws, or rugs can add comfort or warmth. Candles, accent lights, and floor lamps provide light, but they can also make a space feel larger, or more cozy and intimate.

So besides selecting accessories for their primary function and appearance, your goals when accessorizing should also include:

- Bringing an accent color to the space
- Balancing out your other color choices
- Making your space feel finished and “put together”
- Personalizing your space to make it represent your personality, a special place you love to spend time in

The Redesign Toolkit will help you achieve these goals, and you will be thrilled at how the right accessories come together to make your room feel *colorful, balanced, finished* and *personal*. And when your room feels colorful, balanced, finished and personal, you feel right at home, physically and emotionally. Who knew those little pillows pack so much power?

more than just pretty pillows



Furnishing a space is fun, but it can be tricky. For instance, if you shop for a sofa and your only concern is whether it passes the comfort test, then you may end up with a costly, and entirely preventable, mistake. Don't get me wrong, the comfort test is important for any piece of furniture you interact with—but it shouldn't be the sole factor.

I encourage you to consider your furniture, regardless of its cost, as art that contributes to the overall style of your room.

Here are some questions you'll want to consider as you think strategically about your furniture and how it will help transform your room into a space you love:



Practical Considerations

What activities will take place in the room?

Do you have weather-related challenges (room gets very hot in summer or cold in winter)?

Who will be using the furniture?

- Any safety concerns with babies or small children?
- Any cleanliness/durability issues with pets (shedding, staining, damage from paws or chewing)?
- Any family members or visitors with physical challenges?

Design Considerations

Is the room big enough to accommodate the furniture you want?

Are there unique storage or display needs (photo albums, books, collectibles, pet or child toys, etc.)?

Are you limited in your color choices; for instance, do you have reddish wood floors that you love and know you'll be keeping?

Have you decided on a particular style that you want your furniture to match?

Which pieces of furniture, if any, will you be keeping?

At the end of this section, you will complete your Furniture Worksheet and add your results to your Redesign Master Plan. The information coming up will help you make informed furniture decisions so your furnishings will be both practical and comfortable and will serve as a strong foundational element for your room's overall redesign.

