



CASEY ROY INTERIOR DESIGN

MIX IT UP: San Antonio-based interior designer Casey Roy of Casey Roy Interior Design says homeowners should not be afraid of mixing finishes, whether the surfaces are stained or painted.

YOUNG: The right mix of styles

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repurposing and refreshing.

A heavy table found new life as a desk upstairs. The hulking ottoman now seems luxe and elegant with its chic animal print.

Shabot plans to replace the abundance of couch pillows with two new, tailored cushions and a bolster. To play up the art, she grouped similar pieces and tweaked the lighting to bring them out of the shadows.

"People notice the art more now," Wilk said. "We find ourselves taking people into the living room more."

Not that traditional décor is bad. But without the right mix, the style can weigh down a space or even worse, make it resemble a museum. San Antonio-based interior designer Casey Roy often sees issues with wood finishes.

"Avoid having all of your furnishings look the same," Roy advised.

Roy says don't fear mixing stains with painted furniture. She likes combining ebony stains and the warm hues of antique furnishings. Painted, glazed and "crusty" or rustic finishes, she said, add to the style of antiquity.

Vary the level of sheens on case pieces and furniture legs to create an interesting mixture that looks like you've assembled a gathering over time and travels, Roy said.

Shabot and Roy both like to revamp traditional pieces with a lacquered or high-gloss finish. Opt for a bold color, such as turquoise or orange, or take a classic approach with navy, black or white. The shiny, opaque finish draws attention to intricate details such as baroque carving or latticework.

Be sure to check the provenance of a piece first, however, in case you have a treasure.

"When people think of traditional, they probably think of tone-on-tone and things that go together a little too well," said Chris Nguyen, a graphic designer whose interiors won an award on Apartment-Therapy.com. "I'd bring in a little contrast in terms of color; contrast in terms of new versus old."

In the living room of a model unit that celebrates a major renovation of the '60s-era Houston House apartment building, Nguyen placed a clean-lined, modern chartreuse sofa in front of a black wall. A high-pile, white shag rug and black-and-white-patterned pillows accent the graphic grouping.

"I wanted to bring in something that contrasted and popped out," Nguyen said of the sofa. "It's

dramatic. It's whimsical, too, which is essential in younging up a space."

Nguyen said people often mistakenly fill rooms with new furniture and accessories. A more youthful approach, he said, is to infuse the new with the old. "When you accent a room with old things, it's like that young person that's driving a vintage car," Nguyen said.

Also, Nguyen said he's not a fan of what some designers call "frightened furniture" — the habit of pushing everything against the walls.

For Wilk, younging it up has brought some unexpected emotions.

"I feel good when I walk into my house," she said. "I didn't realize I didn't feel good before."

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EVERY SECRET COMES WITH A PRICE.