



10 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE DECORATING A ROOM

Hey there! If you're reading this, you're probably getting ready to redo a space in your home. Whether it's a single room or your whole house, there are some things you'll want to think about before diving in. I've got a bunch of questions (ten, in fact!) to guide you through that process. After you finish, you'll be ready to take the next step of putting together a place you'll love!

WHAT'S MOTIVATING YOU TO WANT TO TAKE ON THIS PROJECT?

It's probably a mix of reasons, but here are a few examples:

- You're still rocking mismatched furniture from college that's seen better days and you feel like you have to apologize when people come over.
- You've spent years prioritizing other rooms in the house and are now finally giving yourself that bedroom you've been dreaming about.
- You just bought your first home and are ready to make it your own.
- Your tastes have changed and your home is no longer a reflection of who you are.
- Or how about *it's just time*.

your answer:

HOW WILL THE CHANGES AFFECT YOUR LIFE?

Maybe you love to entertain, but have never had a space that's set up well for that. Or maybe finishing your bedroom has always fallen to the bottom of your priority list and it looks straight out of the '90s. Take some time to think about what how these updates will affect you both practically and emotionally.

your answer:

WHAT NEEDS TO GO? WHAT NEEDS TO STAY?

Ok, technically this is two questions, but they work together beautifully. Before you do anything, take an inventory of what you're saying goodbye to and what's sticking around. I would suggest grabbing a note pad and making a list for each, then go through the items the items that are leaving and decide if they're worth selling on Craigslist, donating, or trashing.

your answer:

WHO USES THE ROOM/HOME AND WHAT ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE THERE?

This can be an easy question to answer if you're working on a bedroom or dining room, but might be trickier if the room has multiple purposes. For example, your living room may also need to include a work space or a kids' play area. If you have kids or pets, don't forget to think about them in the design!

your answer:

HOW DO YOU LIVE LIFE IN YOUR HOME?

Not to get too deep here, but before you click "buy" on that pretty new tufted sofa (or anything else for that matter), think about *how* you actually live in your home. Do you have young kids who tend to be messy? Do you currently work at the kitchen table, but long for a true office space where you can close a door at the end of the day? Are overnight visitors a common occurrence, but you're kindasorta embarrassed by the room they have to stay in? The goal is to create a home you love to be in, that functions well, and that's inviting to others, so if you haven't thought through how you live, it'll be hard to figure out how to decorate it.

your answer:

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE IN YOUR HOME?

I'm always encouraging people to settle in and make a house a home no matter how long you plan to stay, but you'll most likely make different choices if you're in your forever home versus a one year lease apartment.

your answer:

WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?

Take a look at your finances and decide what you can spend on a room. Be honest - because it'll be frustrating for you and the designer if you're working with one, if you don't set those expectations right away! Also, consider a "spend now, spend later" approach. Many people don't have the budget for a total room overhaul right this second, but they may be able to purchase a few items now, and at the same time start setting aside funds for other items to buy down the road.

your answer:

HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT YOUR STYLE?

This is really important to figure out before you dive into your project. A lot of people think they don't know their style, but even if you can't put words to it, I'll bet you can find photos of spaces that you love (and ones you don't!). Spend some time on Pinterest, Houzz or even Google Images to find what makes you say, "Yes! That's it!"

your answer:

WHEN SOMEONE WALKS INTO THE ROOM FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHAT ARE THE WORDS YOU HOPE THEY'LL USE TO DESCRIBE IT?

In other words, how do you want the room to feel? Are you hoping for a cozy, hotel-like bedroom? A playful and whimsical nursery? Your style, furniture picks, colors, and other details work together to communicate one common theme. Make sure it's reflective of the one you want!

your answer:

Whew! If you took the time to answer those questions, congrats! Now that you're done, it's time to start gathering inspiration, come with a plan, and begin finding those pieces of furniture and accessories that will make that room into exactly what you want. (If you need help with that, read on!)

Go get 'em!



Hey there! I'm Chaney.

I'm the founder of Mix & Match Design Company, a business that was created to provide accessible, affordable interior design services for everyone. Whether you're starting from scratch on a brand new home, adding a few pieces to pull a room together, or just in need of another set of eyes to take your space from good to great - Mix & Match has got it all.

Need some help making your project dream a reality?

Take a look at my affordable e-design services. If you have questions, feel free to email me at chaney@mixandmatchdesign.com or fill out a contact form on my website.

Visit my website and blog at mixandmatchdesign.com for peeks at client projects and my own home, as well as product recommendations and design tips.

Don't be shy - say hello!

Connect with me out in the great big world of social media! Find me on Instagram (my personal favorite!) or Facebook. You can also follow me on Pinterest or Houzz.