

# HOW TO MIX DESIGN STYLES *for a Unique Home Aesthetic*

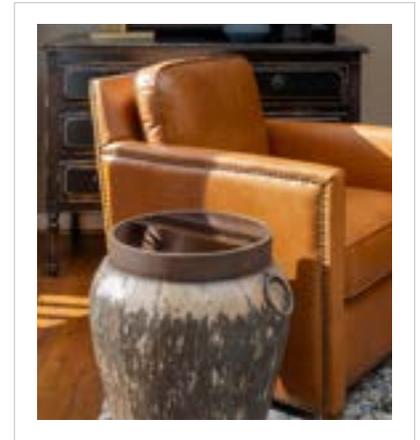
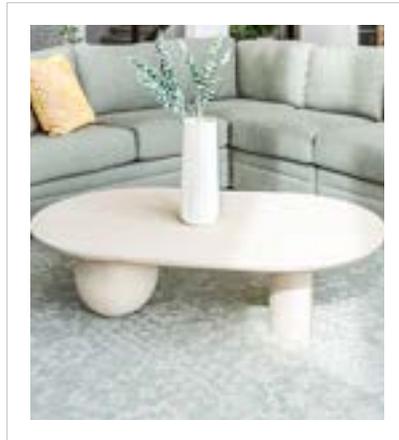


DEBORAH BETTCHER

DECORATING DEN INTERIORS®

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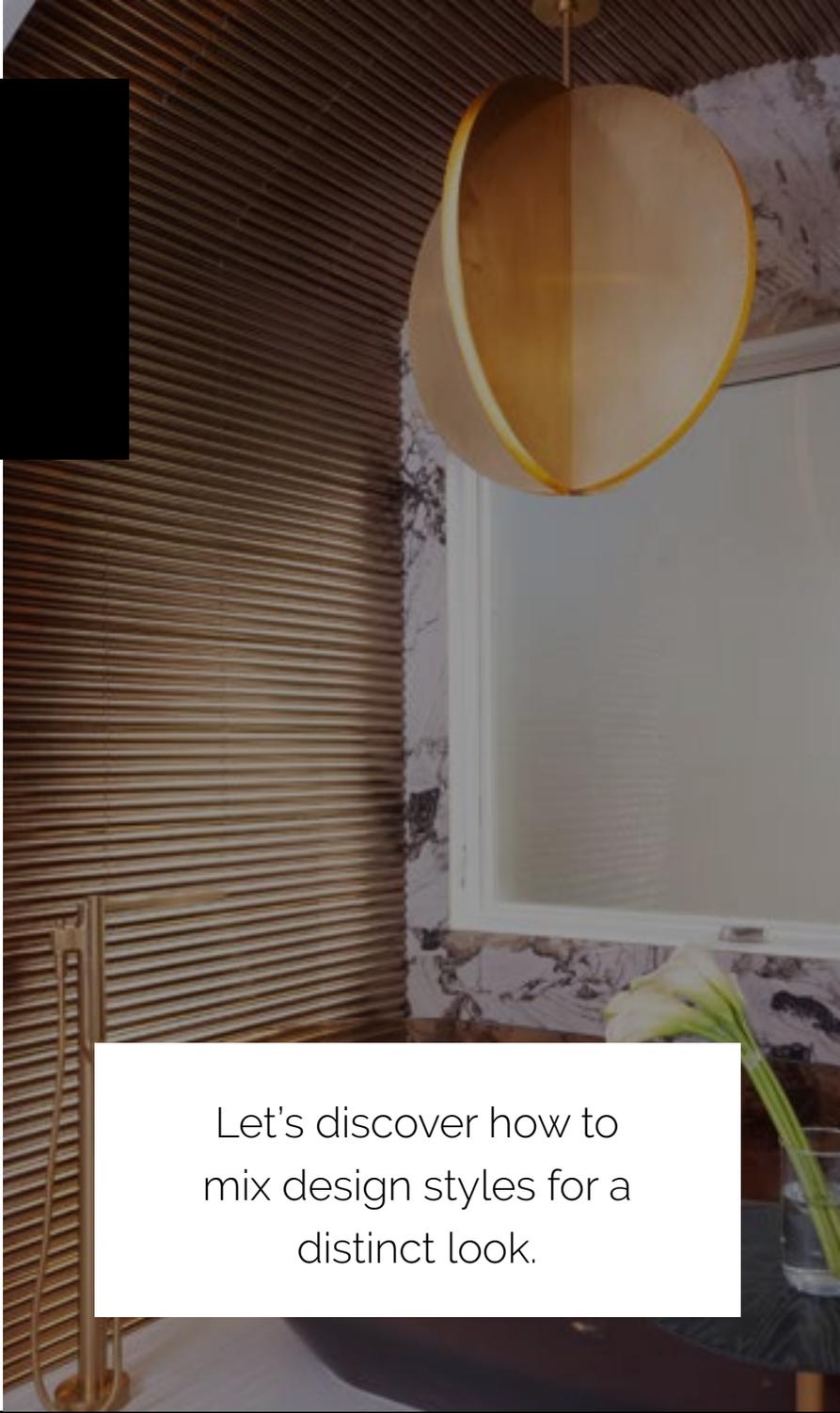
- 3 OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF CLASHING ELEMENTS
- 4 FINDING YOUR PERSONAL AESTHETIC
- 5 THE ART OF BALANCE: CREATING HARMONY BETWEEN STYLES
- 6 KEY PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW WHEN MIXING DESIGNS
- 7 COMMON MISTAKES IN BLENDING LOOKS

- 8 THE ROLES OF TEXTURE, COLOR AND FURNITURE
- 9 TRENDS IN HOME DESIGN THAT ENCOURAGE STYLE-MIXING
- 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE REDESIGNING YOUR HOME
- 11 THE DECORATING DEN INTERIORS APPROACH

# Overcoming the Fear of Clashing Elements

If you love lots of different looks but struggle to pinpoint your exact aesthetic, you might require a unique approach to designing your home. Maybe you lean toward minimal furniture but delight in detailed woodwork and traditional colors. Can you blend these two looks into one that accurately portrays your personal style? The short answer is yes, but it takes intention.

Blending design styles, when done thoughtfully, crafts a home that's uniquely yours — rich with personality and layered with stories. It's like curating a visual narrative where each piece, whether modern or vintage, reflects a part of your journey. This intentional mix avoids the monotony of a single-style space, sparking curiosity and conversation. A mid-century chair paired with a rustic table, for example, doesn't just fill a room — it invites questions about its history and your taste, making the aesthetic dynamic and deeply personal.

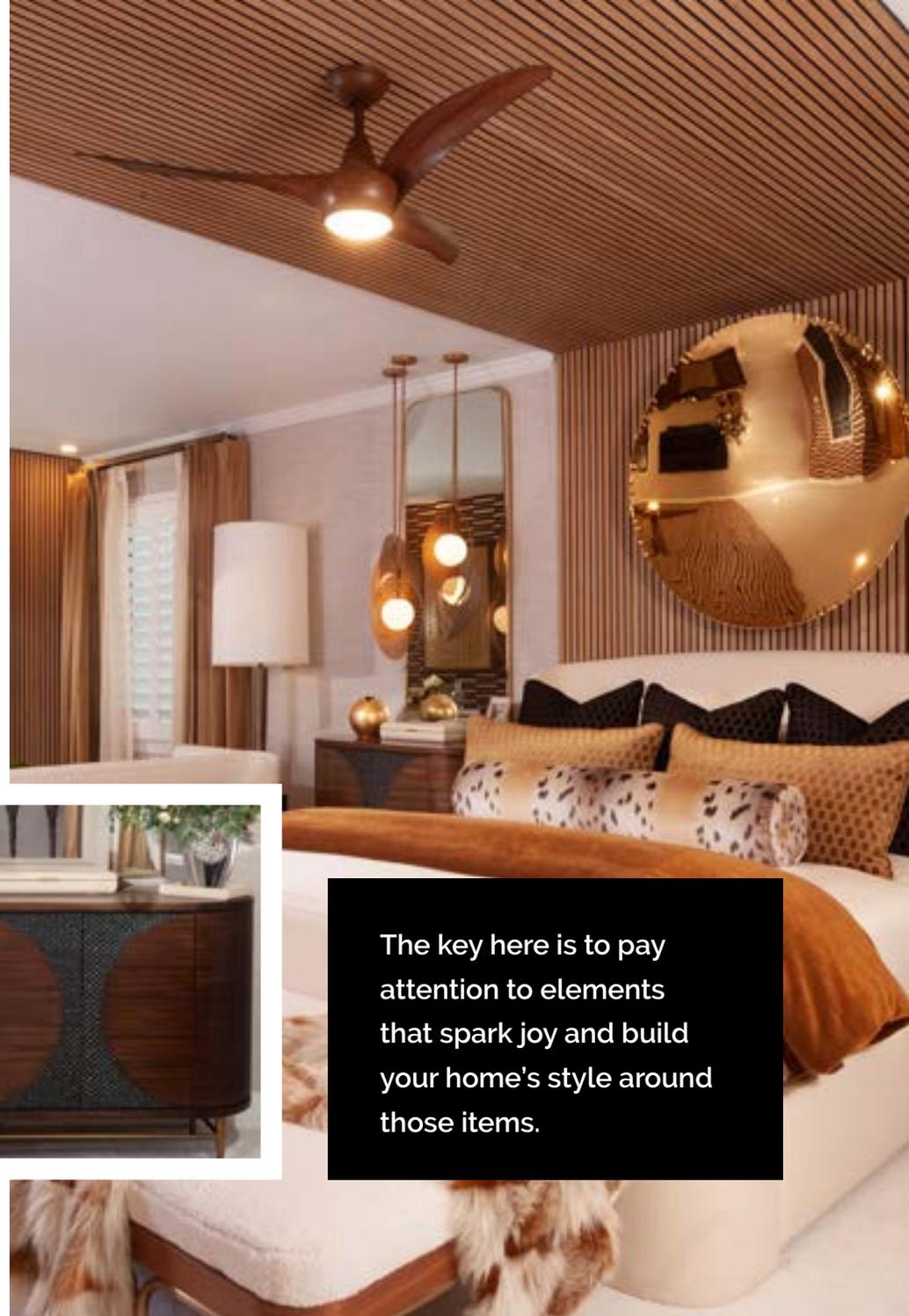


Let's discover how to mix design styles for a distinct look.

# Finding Your Personal Aesthetic

Before getting to the actual design phase, you need to know what speaks to you both emotionally and visually. Do you love a colorful palette or a neutral one? Where does your attention draw when in your friends' homes? Instead of forcing a style, take inventory of what you're naturally drawn to — whether it's the sleek lines of modern design, the warmth of rustic elements or the timeless elegance of traditional pieces.

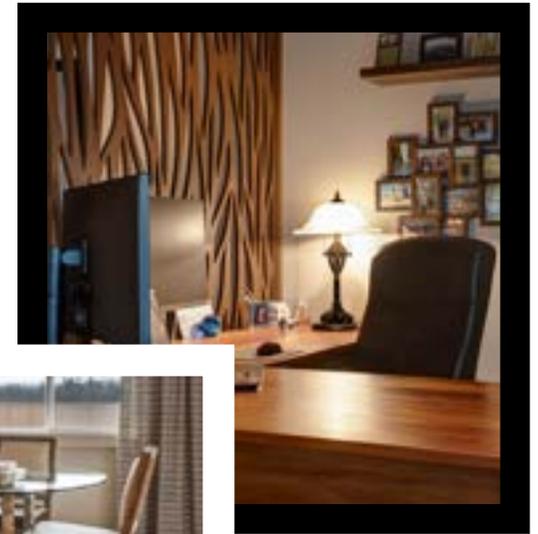
Still not sure how you'd define your style? Gather inspiration from magazines, social media posts and design websites. Notice any patterns in the colors, materials and layouts you're loving? That can be a telltale sign about the types of designs you may prefer.



The key here is to pay attention to elements that spark joy and build your home's style around those items.

# The Art of Balance: Creating Harmony Between Styles

Now, before you start throwing together a bunch of different colors, textures and furniture styles, pause and take a deep breath. Chaos creeps in without a plan, but it's avoidable with strategy. The next step to mixing styles for your home is to come up with a blueprint to serve as your foundation.



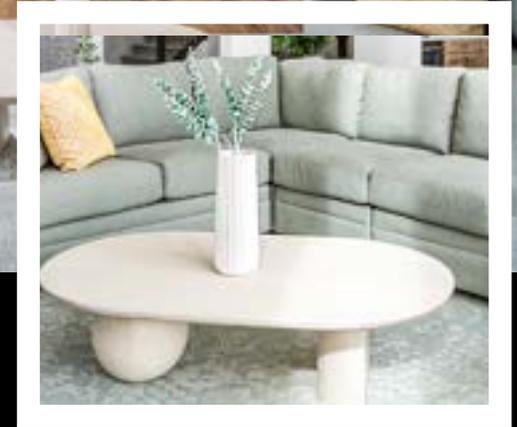
Start by embracing your comfort level — some thrive in eclectic chaos, others crave order. Blending often stems from transitions, like merging old furniture into a new home, so prioritize editing: keep what fits the vision, relocate or ditch the rest. Strategic placement ties it together purposefully, not haphazardly. The result can be striking and personal, but overdo it, and even the best pieces feel like noise. Ultimately, less is often more when aiming for cohesion.

# Key Principles To Follow When Mixing Designs

Mixing design styles successfully hinges on balance and intention. Start by distinguishing between essentials — pieces with sentimental or stylistic value — and extras that can be let go. Clinging to too many outdated items risks clutter or a disjointed look, so edit ruthlessly. This will help you narrow down your rooms to what truly feels right and make it easier to tie two or more looks together.

Anchor the space with a neutral color palette to unify diverse elements, then layer in the basics:

- ▶ Symmetry for harmony.
- ▶ Balance for flow.
- ▶ Scale for proportion.
- ▶ Functionality for livability.



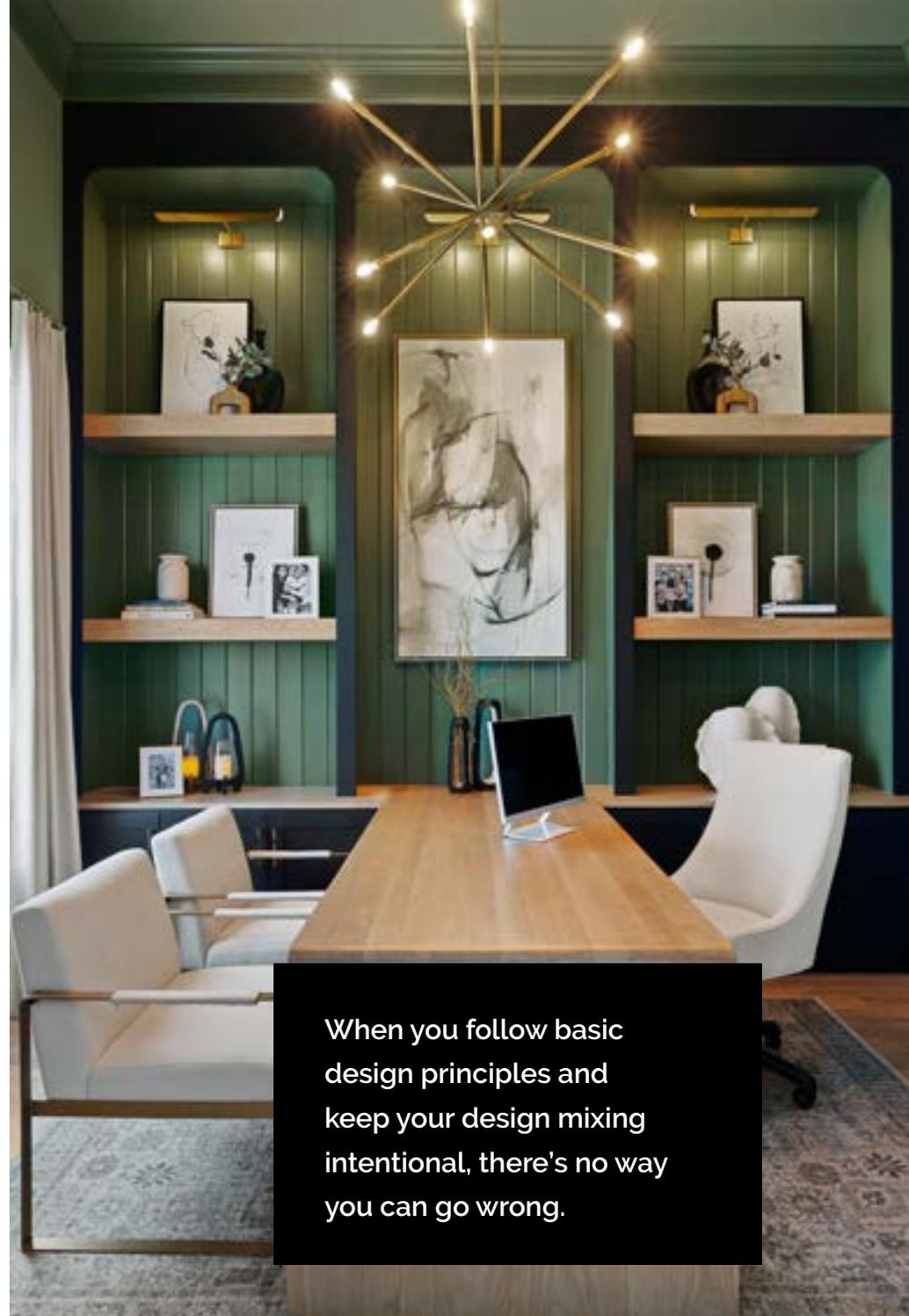
Above all, keep the end goal in sight — every choice should align with a clear vision, not waver into indecision.

Another helpful tip is to choose one primary style — like bohemian or coastal — and then add a secondary style. This is called the 80/20 rule, where one look will serve as the overarching presence in the room and the other will be reserved for statement pieces and accents.

# Common Mistakes in Blending Looks

While mixing two or more styles together is totally doable, some roadblocks could halt your progress and keep your home from looking its best. Here are some of the key issues to avoid:

- ▶ Rushing in without a plan is a big misstep — ignoring basics like balance, symmetry, scale and function leads to chaos.
- ▶ Over-mixing can be another trap, which happens when you blend more than two distinct styles and muddy the design waters.
- ▶ Failing to define what you have versus what you want risks a disjointed mess. Be clear on what new items you're bringing in and keep track of how those pieces work with your existing decor.
- ▶ Losing sight of your end goal can cause costly errors — patience and editing keep you on track.



When you follow basic design principles and keep your design mixing intentional, there's no way you can go wrong.

# The Roles of Texture, Color and Furniture

Almost all home elements can be boiled down into three categories: texture, color and furniture. And these groups play major roles in your home's finish.

## Vital Texture

Texture and material add depth and connection, acting as silent unifiers across styles. A sleek metal lamp beside a woven rug creates contrast that draws the eye, highlighting both pieces. Use texture strategically — dominant textures can emphasize a focal point, like a modern sculpture, while subtler ones blend into the background. Materials matter too: wood warms a cold industrial edge, while glass lightens a heavy traditional piece. Keep it balanced — too many competing textures can clutter the space and undo the harmony you're chasing.

## Critical Color

Color is very important when blending styles because it can either make or break a room's balance.

Go to your 60/30/10 rule and stay within those colors. If you're having a hard time merging looks, a classic color combination is 60% whites, creams or neutrals and 40% being bolder secondary hues to create a seamless color flow.



## Fundamental Furniture

When it comes to furniture, there's a lot of flexibility based on the design styles you've chosen to mix. For example, consider a very traditional rug pattern, but in updated colors for a modern traditional look. Additionally, different wood finishes such as walnut and oak work well across many design styles, so using a universal furniture material can help tie aesthetics into one complete picture. Lastly, pieces with mixed materials such as wood, metal and wicker can find a nice spot in many rooms and many styles, making them great foundational additions to rooms with two differing designs.

# Trends in Home Design That Encourage Style-Mixing

Style-mixing is thriving as trends continue to evolve and take shape. The decade-long reign of transitional design is nudging back toward traditional, but shifts aren't instant. Some homeowners blend old and new to ease into the change, while others, especially first-timers, mix what's inherited or trendy with intention. Market shifts — like a renewed love for vintage or artisanal pieces — also fuel this. It's less about chasing fads and more about personalizing spaces with eclectic layers that reflect life's ebb and flow.

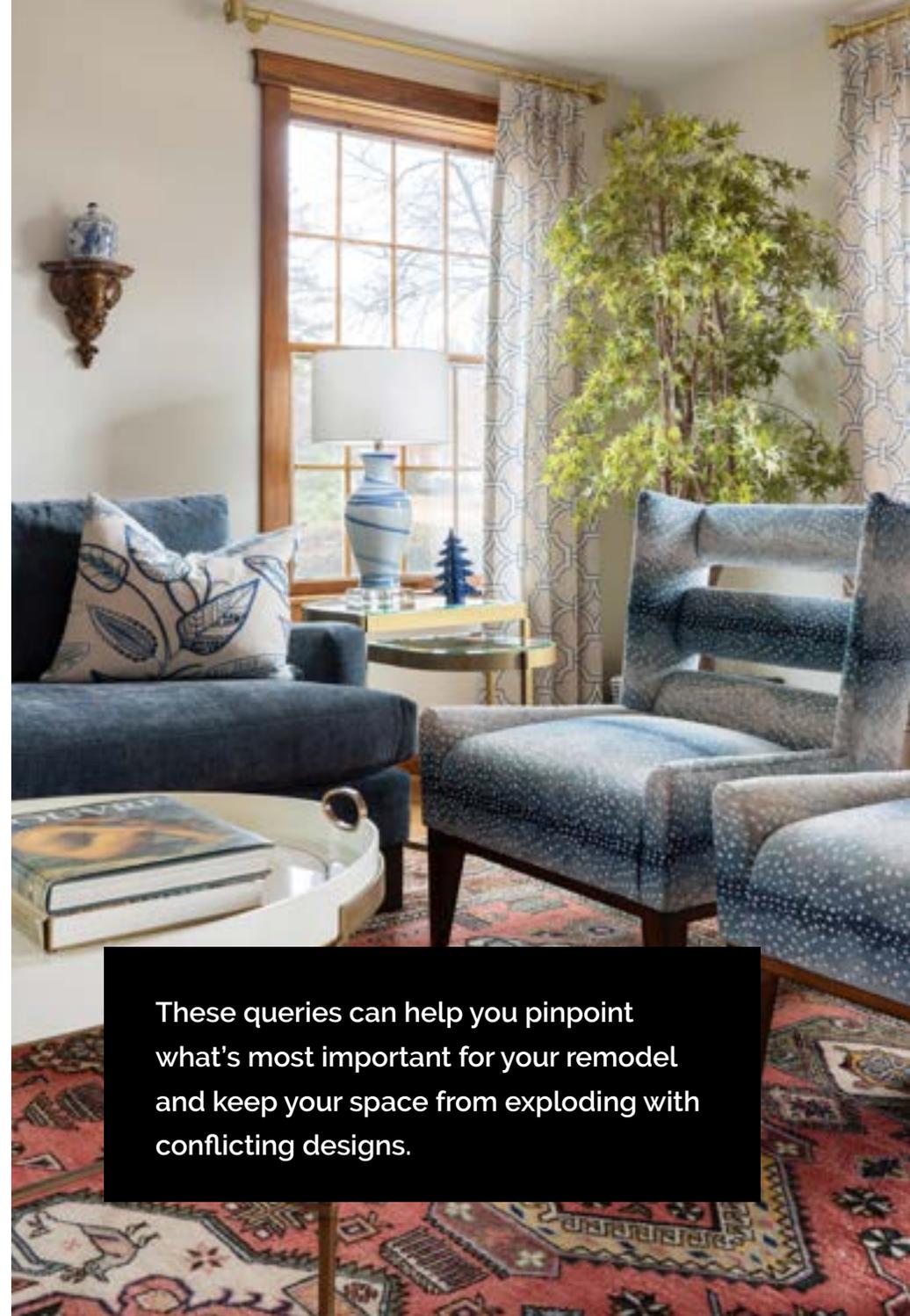
Think of the modern farmhouse look as just one example. It allows you to really layer things into the home and make it feel fresher and personalized rather than very structured and rigid. Grandmillennial is another current trend that merges traditional elements, vintage and contemporary pieces. It feels nostalgic and homey, but the contemporary pieces keep it from feeling like grandma's old house — yet, you feel as welcome as you did at grandma's.



# Questions To Ask Yourself Before Redesigning Your Home

If you're considering redesigning your pad with the intention of mixing your favorite interior design looks into one harmonized space, you might have tons of ideas swirling around. To get those plans down on paper and come up with a concrete plan that will look as good in person as it does in your head, ask yourself these questions:

- ▶ What do I want my space to feel like?
- ▶ Which existing pieces do I love, and which can I part with?
- ▶ How will this space be used?
- ▶ Do I have a color palette in mind?
- ▶ What styles am I naturally drawn to?
- ▶ What's my budget and timeline?
- ▶ How flexible am I?



These queries can help you pinpoint what's most important for your remodel and keep your space from exploding with conflicting designs.

# *The Decorating Den Interiors Approach*

At Deborah Bettcher - Decorating Den Interiors, seamless blending starts with vision and discipline. We see the big picture, aligning every choice with your intent while honoring design fundamentals. Our pros save time and money by curating, thoughtfully editing out what doesn't fit and placing pieces with purpose. It's about focus: guiding you to a cohesive, personalized result you'll love.

We begin the process, naturally, in your home, assessing the space and existing pieces for ourselves. Listening is key — we dig into your vision, preferences and goals. If something clashes with the plan, we explore options: relocate it or let it go. Once we align on direction, we execute with precision, ensuring every style integrates smoothly into a unified whole that will feel perfectly you.

Want a professional to take a swing at finding a flawless balance between your favorite home looks? We are ready to take the stress off your shoulders!



*Contact Deborah Bettcher to get your project up and running today.*



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