

DESIGN BASICS:

HOW TO “DECORATE” LESS AND GET BETTER RESULTS

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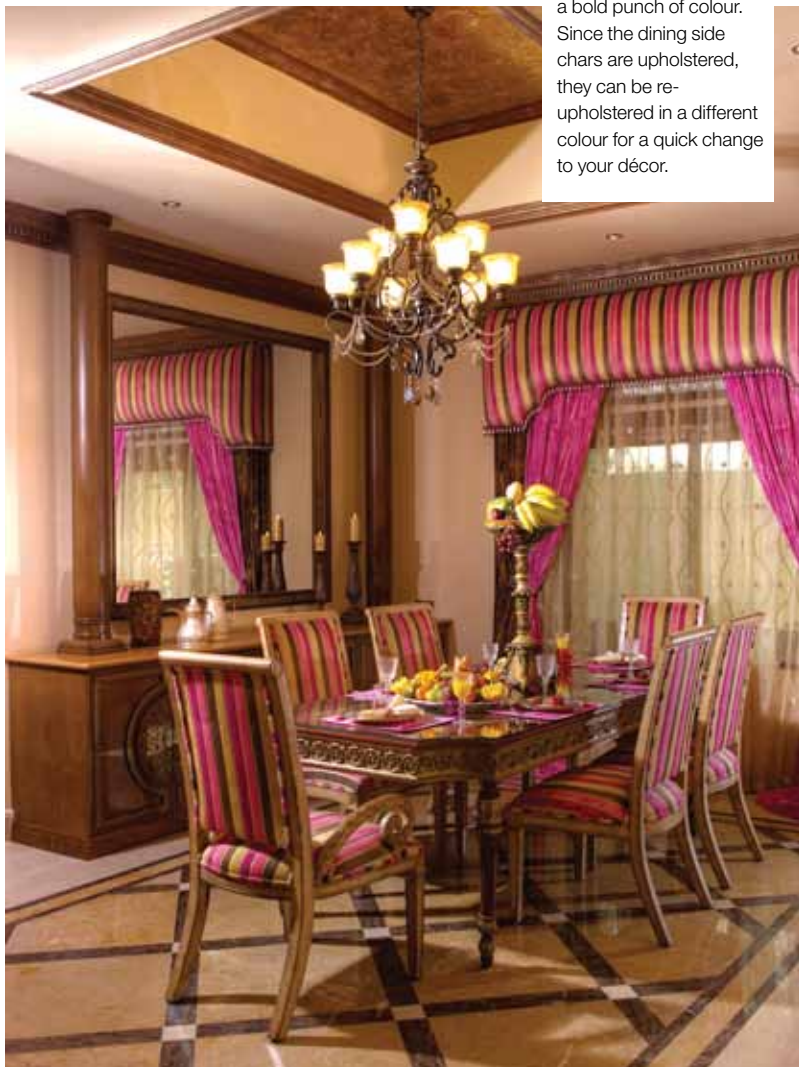
Are you frustrated with your efforts at home decorating? ABODE posed this dilemma to Master Designer Perla Lichi, who has professionally designed homes at all price ranges in many different parts of the world. Here's her advice on decorating less and getting more.



Perla Lichi

BOLD COLOUR DINING CHAIRS

Once you are confident in your colour decisions, add a bold punch of colour. Since the dining side chairs are upholstered, they can be re-upholstered in a different colour for a quick change to your décor.



NEUTRAL SCHEME BRIGHT PILLOWS

Selecting good pieces of furniture in neutral colours enables you to add decorative pillows in colours and patterns that enhance your theme. You can easily change them from time to time for a completely different look.

INVEST IN A FEW GOOD PIECES OF FURNITURE.

Don't furnish your home with spur-of-the-moment purchases. If you simply accumulate pieces of furniture over the years, there is almost no way the result can look “well decorated.” And more importantly, you should consider large pieces of furniture as an investment in the future. Perla Lichi says that in the case of furniture, it's like everything else. You get what you pay for. Buying furniture with good frames, quality upholstery, and generally good construction from a reliable manufacturer is the key. These major items in your home will give you continuity over the years without the need to replace them and you can change your décor by simply changing the pillows.



SELECT AT LEAST ONE PIECE OF LARGE WALL ART.

Most people are too timid when deciding on art for their walls. Making a bold statement with a very large piece of art is a good way to do less decorating for better results. Of course, you must have a wall to dedicate to this art. And most importantly make it something that you absolutely love. The art serves as a dramatic focal point and you can balance out the room with the furnishings. You could, then, in your shopping or in your travels, invest in other pieces of large art and hang a different one every season! This will give you and your family a nice change and your guests will love it too!

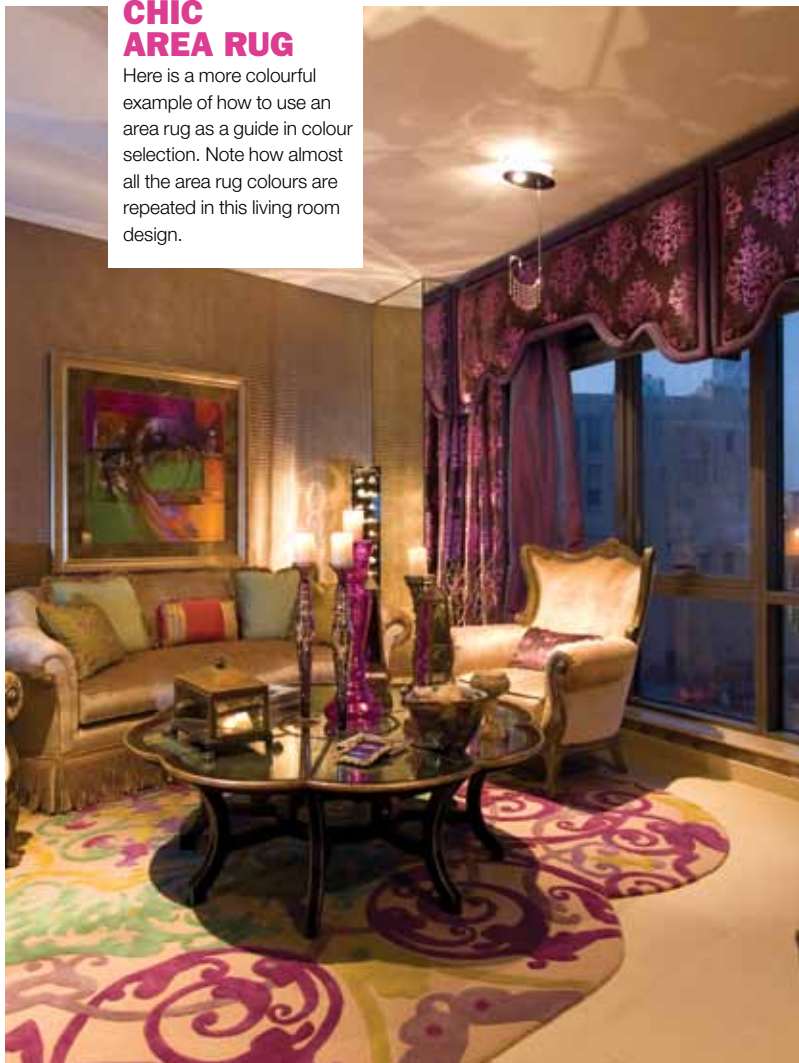


USE CARPET AS COLOUR GUIDE

Perla Lichi suggests selecting an area rug and using it as a guide to select your room colours. There are thousands of different shades of white and just selecting the correct shade of white is difficult. Matching the colour to the hue of your carpet will keep your colour selections on track.

**CHIC
AREA RUG**

Here is a more colourful example of how to use an area rug as a guide in colour selection. Note how almost all the area rug colours are repeated in this living room design.



DON'T TRUST YOUR OWN COLOUR CHOICES.

Trust the experts. Interior colour selection is more than just picking your favorite colours. Designers spend years perfecting and understanding colour theory and it is very easy to make incorrect choices. Designer Perla Lichi suggests you “trust the experts” by first selecting a multi-colour area rug or an upholstery fabric with a pattern in different colours. First, make sure that either choice works well in your room. Using this rug or fabric as a guide, you can now select wall colours that work with them and your colour selection should blend perfectly. You will still have many choices to make as you match or select different hues. But using colours that professional product designers have put together in the area rug or patterned fabric will give you confidence in your selections. Ms. Lichi still recommends painting a small swatch of the new colour or colours in your room and living with them for a day or so to ensure you are happy with the results before painting the entire room.

SPEND A LOT OF TIME ELIMINATING CLUTTER. Most people have too much clutter and too few decorative accessories. Eliminating the inevitable clutter in your home is a great first step toward decorating less for better results. Enlist the help of every member of your family for this task. Buy furniture with shelves or cabinets and lots of storage supplies. Once everything has a place and members of your family know where things are supposed to go, it will be easier to maintain an uncluttered home.

**SIMPLE
UNCLUTTERED
SYMMETRY**

A simple symmetric arrangement looks great. And there is no clutter.



STUDY DESIGN BASICS.

“Taking this course,” Perla Lichi emphasizes, “you will go into much greater detail on the various aspects of interior design, and it will give you confidence. Design Basics is a survey course about the profession of interior design and is also a good investment for those who may be thinking about design as a career, or for anyone who wants to decorate less and achieve better, more professional results.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT PERLA LICH AND “DESIGN BASICS” at

www.perlalichi.com or call for an appointment in Dubai or anywhere at +971 04 3942898.