

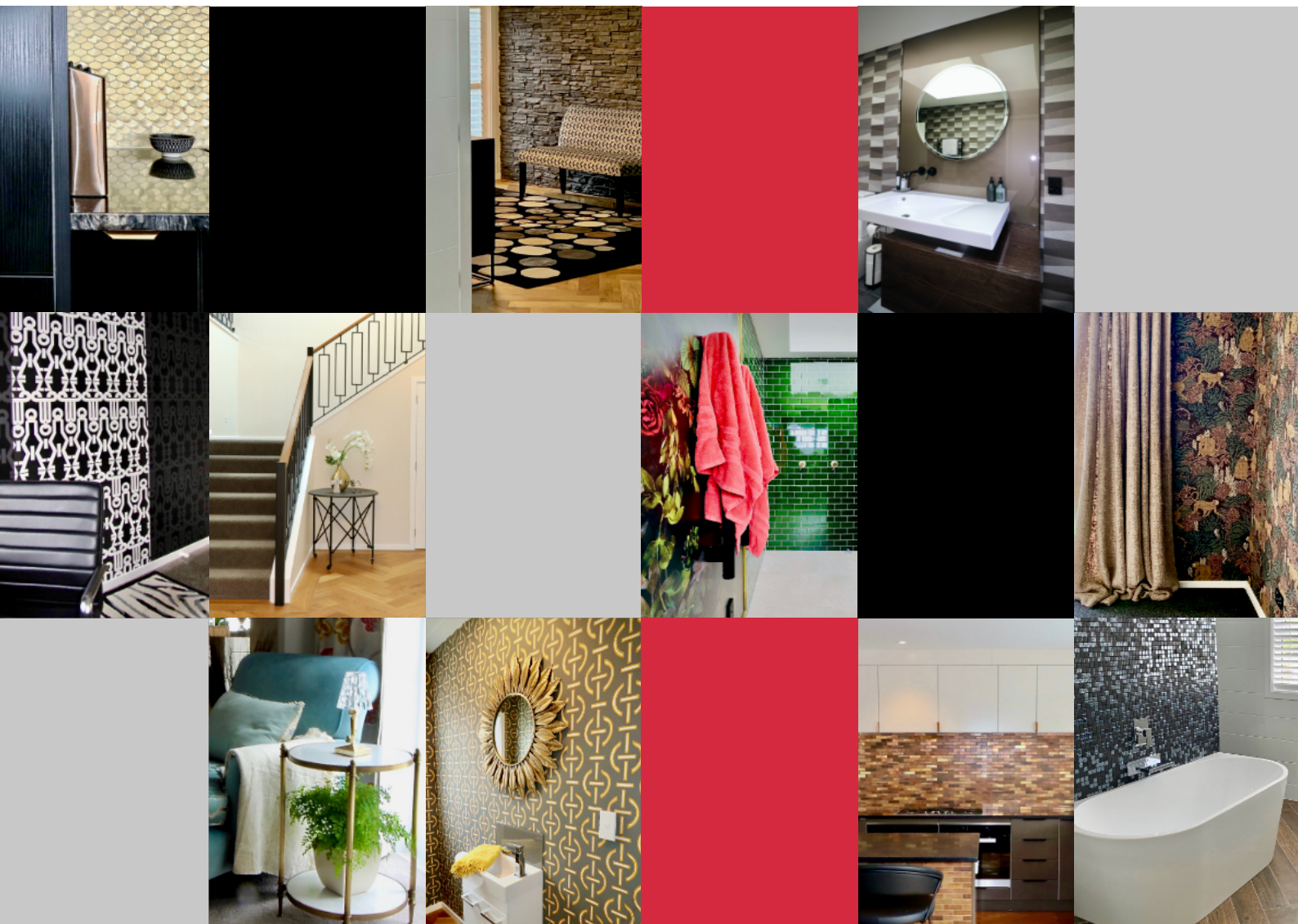
The Best Interior Design Tips

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Studio | 28

Residential Interior Design

Creating wow interiors that are easy on the eye



The Best Interior Design Tips

Interior design is a short term investment for long term return on investment (ROI). Invest once and reap the benefits for years to come. Though the best interior design needn't cost a fortune. It only needs to catch your eye. It's all about getting the best that you can afford.

The following tips are what I've learned over the years and always come into consideration when working with clients. You will gain insight into how I work, which benefits you by adding value to your home.

Remember, interior design is a subjective outcome. What's important is that you love what comes together. If your not loving it then keep going.

Karyn



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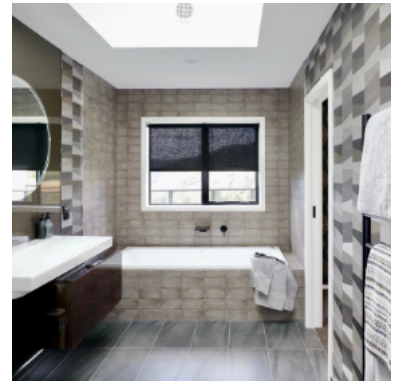
#1 Horizontal surfaces trump all other surface selections in your home.

A - Flooring

Concrete or tiled floors take the punches. Investing in a concrete or tiled floor also means investing in under floor heating.

New Zealand is a temperate climate and our winter sun doesn't have the heat to create a heat sink to release warmth in the evening. Believe me, I live with an unheated concrete floor and it's cold in winter.

Engineered timber flooring has wow appeal. Laid in straight planks or herringbone / chevron patterns it's timeless. Timber will last beyond your lifetime and the beauty lies in the nuances that occur from a lifetime of living.



#1 Horizontal surfaces trump all other surface selections in your home.

A - Flooring cont

Carpet is the best flooring solution in bedrooms. Evoking quietness, with feet landing onto the softness of carpet underfoot is not a luxury it's a necessity.

Cork flooring is 100% natural and sustainable, providing underfoot comfort. It's insulating and waterproof therefore can be used throughout your home including kitchens and bathrooms.

Rugs add a layer of comfort to any space. Wool rugs are popular because of their longevity. You can purchase off the shelf or custom made specific to your design by colour, size, shape & edging requirements.



"Designer tip - Smaller rugs can be layered over a larger rug for a fabulous design statement."

#1 Horizontal surfaces trump all other surface selections in your home.

B - Kitchen bench top

Granite - The hardest of surfaces which is scratch and stain resistant.

Marble - Beautiful to touch. Inherently stains, however can be re polished to keep it's appearance pristine.

Engineered stone - Highly durable and comes in various colours and patterns. Get the marble look without the big investment.

Stainless steel - In my opinion bullet proof. Often used in the cook zone with a show off granite on the island.

High pressure laminates e.g. Formica - Robust and stain resistant. Get a modern marble / granite look at an affordable price.



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C - Fabric on your sofa

Fabric durability is dependent on the type of yarn and weaving techniques used during manufacturing. There are specific tests completed on upholstery fabrics that will tell you if the fabric is suitable for your furnishing requirement. Accidents happen and therefore you should know your fabrics care and maintenance guide.



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#2 Absolutely nothing works in isolation.

There's a lot of considered thought that goes into making a room look and feel comfortable. In a living room the flooring needs to work with the wall colour; the fabric on your sofa, the surface of your coffee table, the lighting and other furniture in your space. Plus did I mention the colour of your window joinery and window treatments. Everything. Only then do you have a cohesive and visually pleasing space that is easy on the eye.



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#3 Inspiration designs a room.

Inspiration is the place to start when contemplating an interior design project. A fabric, wallpaper, artwork, tile, colour, an object that is going to have pride of place, a piece of furniture, whatever it is, this becomes the inspiration that you work with. Create a mood board of images and place other colours and textures with your image / object, and see what works and what doesn't.



Mood board for Guest Bedroom

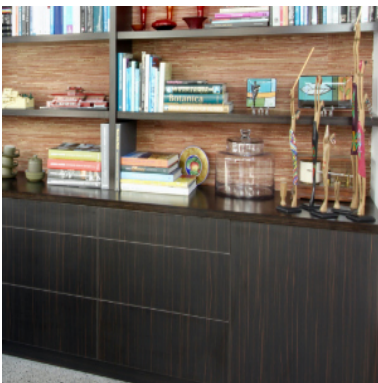


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#4 Storage, storage, storage.

There is no such thing as too much storage. In all the homes I've visited I haven't seen an empty drawer or cupboard yet.

We invest heavily on storage in our kitchens and bathrooms, but other areas of our homes also deserve to have the consideration of effective and functional storage. Once you have storage sorted you have a place to put everything and then your home is easier to live in. Living rooms, dining areas, entrance ways, bedrooms and home offices all require storage that works for your specific needs.



"Once you have storage sorted you have a place to put everything and then your home is easier to live in."

#5 Lighting is always a design consideration.

Good lighting brings depth and visual interest into your space emphasising;

- Focal point - where your eye is drawn
- Height of ceilings - adds a spacious feeling
- Spaces - to nestle
- Art or object - adding drama
- Task stations - for light at hand.

It's about mixing the right amount of light and shadow into your room.

In living, dining, hallways and bedrooms softer lighting helps create ambience. A statement light fitting positioned over a dining table adds drama, a central light fitting in a bedroom creates a subtle glow. Floor standing or table lamps add visual interest and enhance the ambience in living rooms and bedrooms.

Excessive use of recessed down lights is overkill, it's neither comfortable, inviting or relaxing. It's about what you are lighting, not creating a symmetrical pattern of recessed lights on your ceiling.



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New Builds - Renovations - Room Refresh

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