



# The luxe life for less

## Create interiors you'll love coming home to without spending up big, writes Robyn Willis

ot many of us can say we have an unlimited decorating budget. If you're building a new house or renovating your existing one, often there's not a lot left in the kitty once the builders have left.

Creating a sense of luxury can seem like an impossible task under the circumstances. But there are ways to make your home look like a million dollars while still feeling inviting for you and your guests.

#### **HAVE A PLAN**

The unspoken rule about luxury homes is their sense of cohesion. If you want your place to exude style, it pays to plan it out.

But this doesn't have to mean spending big. A basic colour scheme for the house (or the room) is a good place to start. If you're not confident with colour, choose something you love and go with tonal variations.

Green is top of the list this season but it's a great choice anytime because of the sense of calm and connection to nature it embodies. Go for shades of emerald, sea green or teal to create a living room straight out of an art deco salon.

For those feeling bold, you can transform a plain wall with wallpaper. Look for papers that are easy to hang — and even remove — to make the job less tedious.

#### **TALK TEXTURE**

Luxury is not just a visual experience. In fact, you could argue that how the room feels to the touch is more important than what it looks like.

While not everyone can afford — or wants to live with — a velvet lounge, velvet cushions and chenille throw rugs in jewel-like colours are an easy way to update a neutral lounge. Don't be afraid to play with pattern — the bolder the better. Legendary Australian designer Florence Broadhurst redefined style and luxury with her range of textiles in the '70s and Materialised is still printing them today.

#### **MAKING MOMENTS**

Call it the 'wow' factor or whatever you prefer but luxury rooms all have a focal point. In the bedroom, it might be an upholstered bedhead. In the living room, the fireplace is an obvious spot.

If you don't have it, fake it. Turn a blank wall into a library and display area with bookcases from Ikea or add timber panelling from Bunnings to the wall.

Just be sure to measure carefully for a neat fit. Unsightly gaps are not a good look.

More: globewest.com.au; heatherlydesign.com.au luxewalls.com.au



An upholstered bedhead by Heatherly Design is the star in the bedroom.

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Create vignettes. This could be as simple as displaying your jewellery well in your bedroom or arranging a few family heirlooms on a shelf.

are a little tired, swap them out for a

lift but are relatively inexpensive.

little bling. Crystal knobs are an instant

Raise the roof. Well, not quite. But you

length ready made curtains. Go for sheer fabrics to allow the light in while

still maintaining privacy.

can make the ceiling feel higher with full

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