

Vista



Roselyn Sánchez

Life in
Prime Time

+

Mujer
sana,
embarazo
sano

Delicias
tradicionales
con un *twist*

Practice
Happiness

Habits for a
Joyful Life

Smart &
Savvy
Home
Design

El Nuevo Look de Otoño

Tendencias de Estilo y Belleza



Spend vs. Save:

Your Decorating Dollars

There's a misconception that the more you spend on furniture, the more style your space will have. Not true. A \$5,000 sofa, even with its good looks and high quality, won't give the room a designer look. It's everything else you place around it – decorative accessories, lighting, window treatments and artwork – that completes the space. It's in the details where everything comes together. So, be smart spending your decorating dollars.

LIVING ROOMS

The biggest mistake I see in homes is buying furniture that is the wrong scale for the room ... in other words, way too big. This is especially the case with sectionals. Homeowners look for comfort, but forget about space planning and usually end up with a piece of furniture that is too bulky and takes up too much room. You get more bang for your buck when you invest in a modular sectional. The individual pieces allow you to set up different configurations, so you can create different looks. Try separating two of the armless pieces to use as accent chairs. Also, many modular sectionals come with

a matching ottoman, which you can use next to the sofa to create a chaise or a stand-alone coffee table. The possibilities are endless.

Storage is always important. Traditional entertainment centers with the matching base and towers are a thing of the past. Nowadays, it's about transitional pieces that are beautiful and functional – think open bookshelves with architectural details or classic glass doors on the front. These pieces give the living room an eclectic style that feels as though items have been curated and collected through the years (but can still be used to frame a flat screen TV). The best part is they can also be moved into other spaces like an office or dining room and used completely differently.

LIVING ROOMS

From a decorating perspective, the bed is the focal point of the room and should make a statement on its own. I'm a big fan of upholstered headboards because they give the bedroom a custom look without you having to spend too much money. The fabric is also a nice contrast in texture to the wood finish of the nightstands and other furniture, which helps to break up the matching-set look. There are many fabric patterns and designs to choose from including tufted, wing-back, square or arched profile, nail-head trims and many more.

When you see a furniture grouping displayed at the store, keep in mind you can always mix and match the pieces with other sets to create a more personal style.



Never feel obligated to buy the complete set only because it will save you money. It's better to invest in a bed that you LOVE because in the long run, it will be less expensive to change out the other pieces when you get tired of your bedroom's look than it is to buy a new bed. Night stands and dressers can be easily purchased from catalogs, department store chains and clearance centers for a great price.

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DINING ROOMS

The same rule of mixing textures applies to a dining space. If the table and chairs are all the same wood finish, you've missed an opportunity to make a style statement. Be open to combining a modern glass top table with traditional wood chairs. Mix a dark wood table with upholstered or leather side chairs. Or, combine all the three elements with a wood table, upholstered side chairs and then two arm chairs in a completely different style and fabric on either end of the table. They can be leather or a natural fiber. Many times these armchairs can also work as accent chairs in a living room. So you can maximize the use of the furniture throughout the home.

Reclaimed or natural wood slab tables are a big trend in design. Their rustic elegance makes them look like eco-friendly works of art. It's okay to invest a bit more in special pieces like these because they're often one-of-a-kind. You can save money on a sideboard by recycling a living room sofa table in the dining room. Lean a beautiful mirror against the wall on the sideboard and complete the vignette with a pair of lamps on either side. Mirrors help make a room appear larger and make a nice focal point reflecting the light fixture above the table.

Investing in timeless pieces that will grow with your needs instead of becoming dated is a smart way to shop for furniture. In the end, you'll save money since you don't have to go out and buy all new pieces when you get bored of the look of the room.