

Hints For The Home



Newlyweds Can Harmonize Their Homes

(NAPSA)—Newlyweds not only bring different interests and experiences to a relationship, they also bring different furniture, design styles and accessories.

Differing tastes don't have to be cause for trouble, however. With some simple design tips, couples can build a harmoniously designed home that will appeal to both persons' senses.

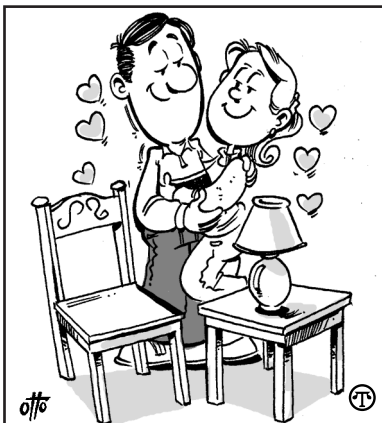
"A lot of times, couples think they have to select just one of their furnishings or design style, because their things just don't seem to go together," said Stephen Saint-Onge, home and style designer on the popular TLC show, "While You Were Out." "But, there are many ways to combine styles, colors and themes to reflect both partners' tastes and make the home uniquely theirs."

The following five tips can help:

1. Find Common Ground—Select a few items you both really love and scale their color schemes and styles to flow throughout the entire room or home.

This will place the focus on things you both enjoy. Place items beloved by one but not the other in a guest room, so they're not seen every day, but are still part of the overall decor.

2. Color is Key—Pick a color palette that you both love with accent colors that can incorporate both of your furnishings. Color



Even the marriage of true minds may not mean wedded bliss for your furniture. Fortunately, a little forethought can help.

can really harmonize different styles such as traditional with modern. One aid for couples is an online color tool called ColorSmart by Behr that allows you to browse a collection of inspirational color palettes, find your favorite color and coordinating color palette and preview in a simulated environment.

3. Like with Like—Partner various styles to mirror congruent shapes, such as curved with curved and rectilinear with rectilinear.

For example, an Eames LCW chair from the mid 1940s will complement a Swan Chair from the late 1950s since both have curved styles although they come

from different time periods. Don't worry about mixing various shapes and materials.

Focus on the scale of the objects so that the items balance each other out. For example, a camelback sofa could be paired with a modern coffee table, as long as they are in proper proportion to one another.

4. Go Neutral—If you're going to mix varying styles and colorful objects, consider choosing a neutral and unifying scheme for the walls.

Some good examples of neutral colors are Weathered Sandstone, Toasted Wheat or Cottonseed. They're all available in Behr Premium Plus Paint, sold exclusively at The Home Depot.

5. Experiment Wisely—If one of you is bold about color and pattern and the other isn't, don't take risks on things like tile and flooring that are difficult to replace. Experiment with things that can be easily changed such as paint, slipcovers, curtains and accessories.

Most importantly, Stephen Saint-Onge recommends that couples have fun. "Your home is a reflection of you, your personality and your lives together," Saint-Onge said. "Have fun and enjoy the process. It is just one of the many journeys in life that you will share together."

You can find the ColorSmart by Behr online tool at www.behr.com.