



inspiring a beautiful life

INSTANT STYLE GUIDE



Decorating Cheats for Busy Women

A note from Sharon and the team....

Do you have a vision of how you want your home to look, but not enough time to make your ideas come to life?

Would you love to have your place looking fabulous, but without spending all your energy, or your cash?

Not sure when it's best to invest in high quality pieces and when you can cheat a little?

Then our Instant Style Guide is definitely for you.

We've put together 13 quick tips – a guide to decorating ideas that offer great value, high impact and minimum effort. You'll also be inspired by the stunning images. Think of it as the ultimate shortcut to the gorgeous home of your dreams. Just what every busy woman needs.

We would love to hear what you think. Which are you going to try? Which is your favourite? Any ideas to add? Please let us know – and send pics!

Until next time



Inspiring a beautiful life



13 Quick Decorating Tips for Busy Women

Your home desperately needs some attention. It's looking a little tired and dull. You've been caught up in your busy life and your décor has been a little neglected. You have to do something. Maybe friends from out of town are coming to stay, or perhaps you're just tired of the same old look....

It's time for an update, but you have no time for an update. You're far too busy already.

You need some quick and easy shortcuts that will bring your living areas up to date and a few ideas for on-trend pieces to give your home an instant facelift, without the effort and expense of a major decorating project.

Done!

Here are 13 decorating ideas that are quick and easy, fun and très chic. They will instantly improve the look of your home, and you'll feel good because you'll be making an investment in timeless style.



01.

Choose your colour way



EXPLORE LATEST COLOUR TRENDS

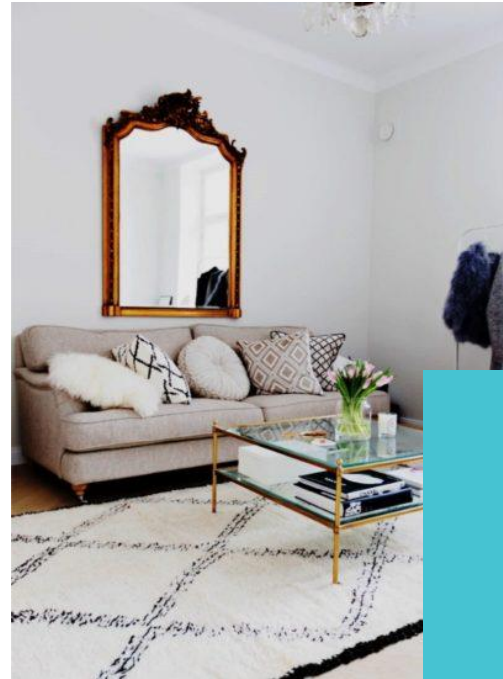
Make sure you start with a clear idea of the colour palette for your rooms. You might not want to spend time preparing a mood board or a detailed vision board, as you would when starting a major project. You do need a simple definitive palette to work with. It will be a ballast for other decisions you will make.

Try choosing a couple of complementary colours with a contrasting accent shade. You might prefer a neutral palette, adding interest with different textures and shapes. Think about whether you prefer colour to create calm or to energise the space. And be aware of which tones will be cooling or warming. Make these decisions before you begin and you will avoid expensive mistakes later on. Pinterest is excellent for browsing colour schemes.

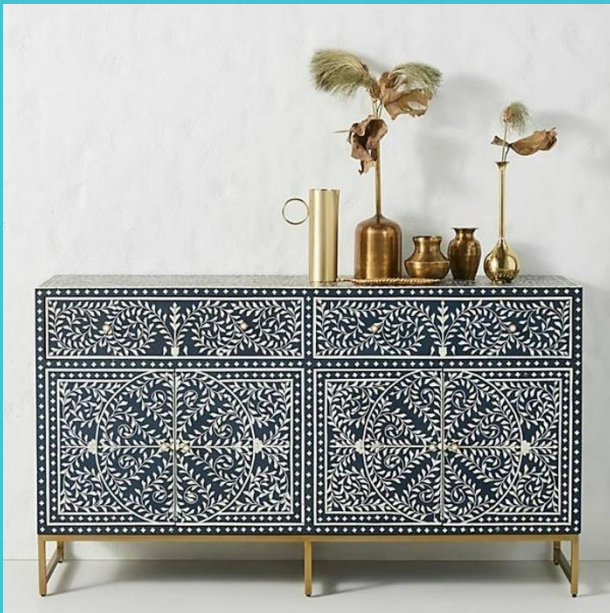
02.

Invest in a Beni Ourain Rug

Beni Ourain rugs are traditionally hand-made by local artisans in the Atlas Mountain regions of Morocco. They traditionally use natural-coloured goats' wool with black detailing. They are understated and timeless and will add a touch of class to any interior space without being glaringly obvious. It will be a treasure to be passed down for generations. It is also an item that honours sustainability and craftsmanship. Every rug is unique and will instantly add depth and refinement to any room. For those wanting a little more colour, other Moroccan rugs from other tribes are also a wonderful choice – Azilal, Boucherouite and Kilims are examples.



SHOP BENI OURAIN RUGS / SHOP ALL MOROCCAN CARPETS



SHOP BONE INLAY STATEMENT PIECES

03. Make a statement

One well-chosen piece of furniture or decorative item can become the focal point of a room. Whether it's an over-sized print or painting, a beautiful bone inlay chest of drawers or a piece of weathered and antique-looking chinoiserie for a touch of the exotic, a statement piece will draw the eye and set the tone.

If you don't have the real thing, with a little imagination and internet research you can make a facsimile. Try distressing techniques, stencilling, gilding or other crafty treatments to transform an op-shop find, or an inexpensive item from Ikea or Knotts Pine.

Be creative. A paint or wallpaper mural, or a block of striking patterns or colours can be a feature. A floor length mirror or ladder leaning against the wall can be practical as well as decorative. When you put your individual signature on a room there are no limits.

04. Add style to your coffee table



GET FREE STYLE ADVICE

Styling a coffee table doesn't need to be complicated. Everything you need is probably already in your home.

Top your table with a tray to showcase some of your favourite items, or mementos from your travels. Use a variety of shapes and heights for added interest. Arrange a vase of flowers or a small potted plant; add candles, beautiful bowls filled with chocolates, shells, décor balls or trinkets. Place magazines or a few books arranged in neat stacks. Make use of decorative boxes, on or under the table, to hide remotes and other clutter.

Et voilà... instant tabletop style!





SHOP COFFEE TABLE STYLING IN ONE EASY MOVE



05. Be green, naturally

Green is good. Plants are definitely back in vogue and natural is ideal. They can be quite economical for the impact. Fresh foliage immediately adds a sense of life. They add oxygen to your spaces, look beautiful and provide comfort. You can create particular looks with particular plants. Lush tropical plants will have a different effect to cacti and succulents for example. Think about the outcome you would like to achieve and work backwards from that. Ask your local nursery for advice.

Among our favourites are orchids. And what more striking way to display them than in a Turkish Dough Bowl – a design statement all on its own that says 'traditional' 'organic' and 'pure style'.

SHOP OUR RANGE OF STUNNING PLANTER POTS



A large plant species will transform an unused space; smaller plants are a beautiful addition to tables and dressers. Plants will always add colour and texture and are the ideal complement to any style in any room of the house. Carefully chosen planters will add an extra dimension to a themed décor.

As long as you remember their needs for water, food and light, plants will reward you with fresh air and a fresh feel that will breathe new life into your home – literally.

SHOP PLANTERS FOR YOUR GREEN MAKEOVER



06.
Update your cushions

To add style and elegance to a room with minimum effort, just add cushions. And with so many magnificent examples to choose, and at prices that will suit any budget, why wouldn't you?

Embellishments and embroidery, beads and bling, tapestry and tassels ... it's your choice. You might find something special at Lamour Artisans if not at Zohi Interiors!





Be bold with block colours coordinated with patterns and neutrals. Or try textures and fringes. You don't need to break the bank. You can create a fresh smart look at affordable prices with cushions from retailers such as Spotlight and Ikea or wholesalers such as Rapee and Kas. Another bonus when you buy less expensive cushions is that you can change them as the seasons change for a brand-new look.



For a special touch, though, look a little further. Add the ultimate in natural, down to earth luxury with leather, fur or hide cushions.

African mud cloth cushions are also right on trend and have timeless fashion appeal. Mud cloth is a traditional fabric from Mali. It holds great meaning for the craftsmen that make it, using age-old techniques. Its black, white or indigo markings communicate the maker's social status and tell community stories. In your home, this special hand-woven fabric will add a rich and elegant texture to a range of interior themes.



Of course, we love all things Moroccan and cactus silk cushions are right on trend. There is a colour for every scheme and they're ever so silky to touch. On any chair, sofa or bed, cushions will create a whole new look in an instant.



SHOP GORGEOUS CUSHIONS

07. Throw a throw

There's nothing more heart-warming than curling up on your comfy sofa or bed with a good book, your tablet or even the telly. And your cosiest (or maybe your second cosiest) companion is your throw – especially during those winter months. Even on summer nights, a light throw is perfect to keep you comfortable when the air cools. Whatever the season, throws are always there for a little pampering and TLC when you need them.

They define your 'you space' as well as add texture and colour to your chosen style. Throws are also 'must have' items right now for any living room or bedroom. Lucky you! That means there are plenty around, and you will be spoilt for choice when you start looking for a pile of lovely throws to update your home décor.





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Want something really special? Throws made from Icelandic and Mongolian sheepskin or reindeer hide are gorgeous to look at, pure heaven to touch, and as indulgent as you deserve. They come in a range of rich or more muted colours and are irresistible.

Throw a throw casually on a chair, bed or sofa. It might be the only companion you need.



SHOP THROWS



08. Make a big entrance

Next time you walk through your front door, pause and think how it makes you feel. If you don't have a defined entry that says 'Welcome home' it's worth considering how you might create the illusion of one.

It's easier than you might think. The placement of furniture helps direct the eye, as well as the traffic flow, and defines an entry space.

You can place a bench seat or a console along a hallway or add a sideboard or desk to the wall closest to the door. If the door leads directly into the living room, even the back of a sofa can form one side of a faux entry; a sofa table behind a sofa strengthens the effect. Ikea's open bookshelves and other modular choices are versatile options; they can be used as a screen or room divide and personalised for your purposes. If you have an open-plan layout and you're keen to go further, you can correct the floorplan and add value to your home.

The overall aim is to outline a space where it's natural to pause – to take off your shoes, drop your handbag and keys, hang up a coat, or put on your lipstick and check your hair as you leave the house. Obviously, baskets, bowls, hooks and mirrors also have their place and function in an entry.

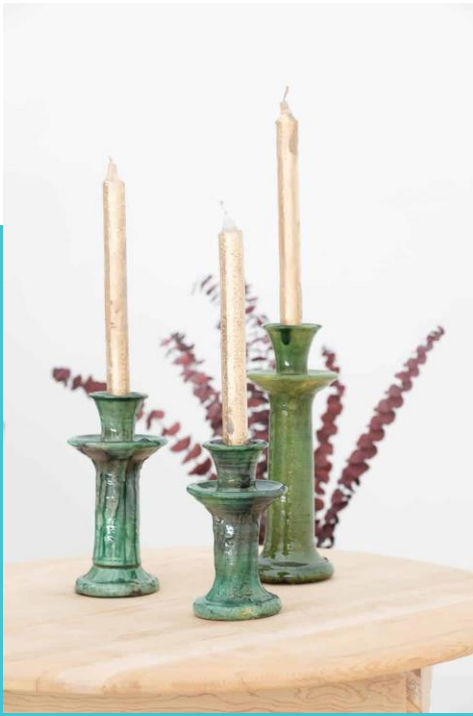
Whether your entry is faux or real, you will need to consider its styling. Find a statement piece and build your entry around it. Anchor the space with a chest or table, then add lighting and a beautiful mirror, print or painting that you adore. If space allows, seating is a definite plus for entryways; a dining chair or occasional chair will work well. Add a few trinket containers or eye-catching decorative items and you'll always make a spectacular entrance.





SHOP ENTRY STYLE WITH MIRRORS





09. Add candles

A rule for life: you can never have too many candles. The glow and the subtle scent of a candle gently suggest ritual, emotion, celebration, honour and appreciation. Whether for your guests, your family or yourself, candles create an ambiance that encourages a feeling of being 'present' and relaxed.

Place them in beautiful vessels of marble, onyx, frosted glass or metal. You can be confident your candles will be stable and safe, housed in luxurious and reusable candle holders. Buy one, or more, and match their elegant style by creating similar pieces of your own.

Another charming finishing touch are diffusers. You can add a pop of colour with our glass diffusers or elegance aplomb with our porcelain and crystal diffusers. Complex layered scent means that you catch a whiff of each of the layers at different times which really is lovely.



SHOP AMBIANCE

10. Include rattan

There are very few interiors where a little rattan wouldn't feel at home. Many styles just cry out for a quality rattan chair or occasional table. And nothing says relaxation like rattan, with its hints of lazy days, summer getaways and easy living. A rattan chair in a bedroom becomes a valet, a reading retreat or a sacred space. Place it on a veranda and you have the beginnings of a whole new outdoor room.

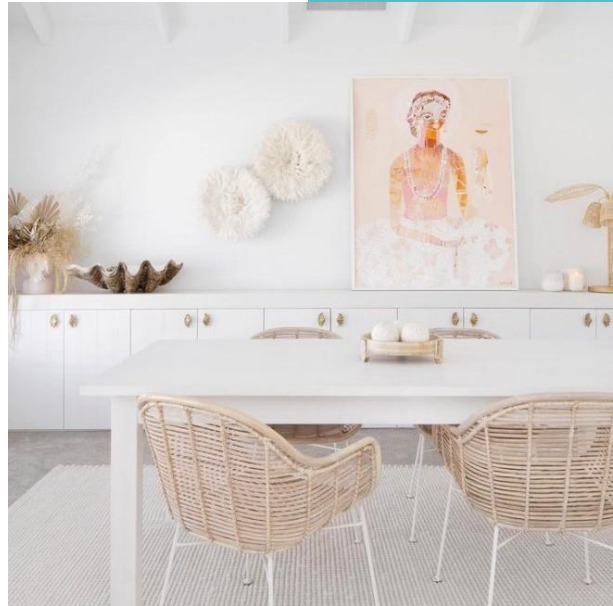
Natural, white or black rattan has lasting appeal that never seems to go out of style. Malawi chairs have been made for generations and are as much in demand now as they were 100 years ago.



Other types of wickers, such as seagrass, bamboo and cane are equally decorative, functional and timeless. Their neutral tones in a range of styles means that natural products like these can be incorporated into any interior for an eclectic feel. Plantation-style furniture provides a rich luxurious look, and a peacock chair or bedhead will create a boho-chic vibe.

Rattan is low maintenance, serviceable and easy to move from house to house. Most of all it makes breezy and feel-good furniture – just like old friends. Who doesn't love rattan?





SHOP NATURAL RATTAN

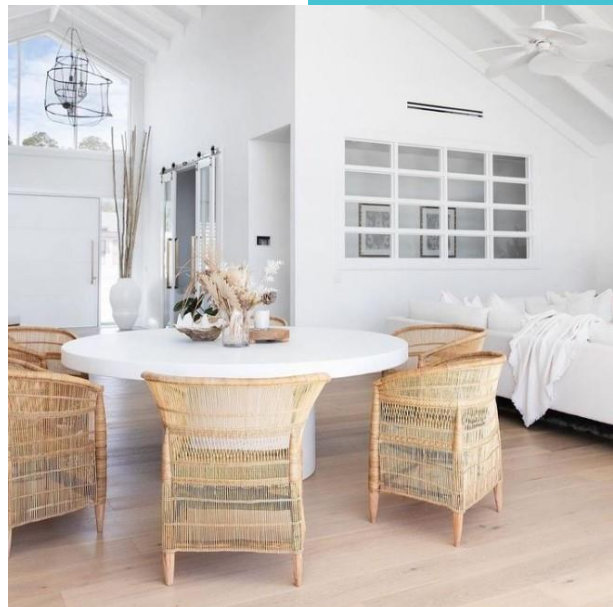
11. Put on a coat of paint

There is no home improvement tactic that is quicker, more effective or better value than paint. Paint a room. Paint a wall. It has high impact for (relatively) low effort. Even minor colour updates can make a major difference.

The special effects paints on the market now can increase the 'wow' factor. Check them out and think about where you might apply them in your home. Rust, suede, lime-wash, metallics, as well as wonderful and surprising palettes: the possibilities are endless.

Don't just think walls. Paint can transform furniture, kitchen cupboards, picture frames, planters, floors and even tiles. That doesn't mean you should take a paint brush to everything that stays still long enough, but it's worth considering where you might spend a few dollars and a little effort to achieve a fresh new look and feel.

Hint: When you choose your paint, remember to take into account the effects of daylight and interior lighting.





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GET HELP WITH OUR TIP SHEET ON PAINTING

12.

De-clutter, clear out, clean up

One of the great side effects of painting is that it usually forces us to have a good tidy up and a thorough clean. The room you're planning to paint must be de-cluttered, and probably emptied, and surfaces need to be washed down with sugar soap. Using a bit of elbow grease to scrub away old vibrations and dead energy – as well as dirt and grime – can be cathartic. And when the painting's done, it would be sad to move the mess back in.

You don't need to wait for a painting project, though, to de-clutter and do a spring clean. Tidying books into neat stacks, culling your wardrobe or even organizing socks and undies drawers can be a renovation and sometimes a revelation. It will transform your home and might even transform you. Just ask Marie Kondo. She has built an empire by revealing the connection between our environment and our happiness. Releasing old 'stuff' makes way for new things to come into your life – both literally and metaphorically.

Why not crank up Spotify and get to work. Tackle one cupboard or one room at a time and give your places and spaces a once over. If you need support, you can even download a free app called KonMari.

GET HELP WITH OUR TIP
SHEET ON DECLUTTERING





13. Get Art

Homes with art have depth and soul. Genuine and authentic art is the ideal choice. Original paintings and artistic creations have a real energy to them that's palpable. Photography, prints and facsimiles can also stimulate your imagination and your memories. It's not difficult to find an image to create any effect you like.

For great ideas about how to create a gallery wall click [here](#).

What are you hoping for: coolness, warmth, space, light, hygge, joy, drama or serenity? Art adds interest, creates meaning, and gives expression to your individual taste or personality.

Always think about the symbols in any art you bring into your spaces. They say more about you than words ever could. You might choose a gallery of framed family snaps or an oversized statement piece. Perhaps you fell in love with a stunning original work, or a pop decorator piece from a local store caught your eye. Consider coordinating a series of themed prints rather than one larger piece.

Beautiful artwork that also has personal meaning is often the best choice of all. Frame a memorable print you bought in a special place, or a photograph you took on your travels.

Whatever your decision, make sure the palette and style work with your scheme for the room. Measure the available space and size the piece appropriately. For best effect, hang paintings at eye level or lean them against a wall. If the artwork is the focal point of the room, then play down other elements. If not, then choose something that complements but doesn't distract from your overall theme.

BROWSE ARTWORKS

Used in the right way and chosen with the eye and the heart, art is your secret weapon in restyling your home.

GET TAILORED ADVICE



A final note....

Any one of these tips will add a little magic to any room that needs attention. The common factor is you. It's your home, and it's your choices that matter. Home decorating is a great investment but it is an expression of you, first and foremost. Choose elements you love and a design plan you can manage. And always check in with your own instincts.

If you feel good about your home, your confidence and positive spirit will add warmth and welcome to the improvements you've made. That's added value.

Ready to be inspired?

Set to update your home?

Go! Right now.



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Thank you.