

INTERIORS BY TERRELL

The Collected Home Style Guide

*Your self-guided reference for creating a beautiful, layered, collected home —
at your own pace.*

Every beautifully designed home begins with a clear sense of direction. This guide gives you that direction — a warm, practical reference you can return to whenever you need clarity, inspiration, or a confident next step.

DISCOVER
Your Style

DESIGN
With Intention

DECORATE
With Confidence

interiorsbyterrell.com

How to Use This Guide

You do not need to redesign your whole home at once. Start by identifying the room that bothers you most — or excites you most — then use this guide to make one confident decision at a time: your color palette, furniture scale, lighting, texture, and finishing details.

Step 1: Identify Your Style

Read the Design Styles Overview and note the styles that feel most like you. Most people are a blend of two.

Step 2: Fill In the Worksheet

Complete the 'Find Your Style' mini worksheet on page 6. This clarifies your direction before you spend a single dollar.

Step 3: Apply the Principles

Work through Color, Furniture, Texture, Lighting, and Pattern for the room you want to improve. One principle at a time.

Step 4: Check the Checklist

Before you shop or hire anyone, run through the Designer's Starter Checklist near the end of this guide.

Step 5: Take the Style Quiz

Visit interiorsbyterrell.com/style-quiz to receive your full personalized style profile, color direction, and room planning starter guide.

As part of the Interiors by Terrell free resource library, you will find practical design tips, room inspiration, decorating tools, and simple ways to create a home that feels beautiful, personal, and pulled together — at your own pace, on your own budget.

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Design Styles Overview

Understanding your design style is the first step toward making confident decisions. Most people are a blend of two styles — and that is exactly how the most interesting interiors are born.

Modern Traditional

Classic · Timeless · Refined · Layered

A blend of traditional architecture and contemporary comfort. Think upholstered sofas in neutral fabrics, warm wood tones, symmetrical arrangements, and curated accessories. Warm and livable without feeling fussy.

Japandi

Minimal · Calm · Organic · Functional

A fusion of Japanese minimalism and Scandinavian hygge. Neutral palettes, natural materials — wood, linen, stone — clean lines, and intentional simplicity. Every object earns its place.

Coastal / Relaxed

Breezy · Light · Textured · Casual

Inspired by the seaside: sandy neutrals, whites, natural textures like jute and rattan, and pops of soft blue or green. Relaxed without feeling undone.

Boho Eclectic

Layered · Expressive · Global · Warm

Rich patterns, mixed textiles, layered rugs, plants, and objects collected from around the world. Bohemian spaces feel personal, adventurous, and full of life.

Modern Glam

Luxe · Bold · Polished · Sculptural

Velvet, metallics, statement lighting, and bold color or contrast. Glamorous rooms have a confident point of view — nothing is accidental.

Warm Minimalist

Clean · Grounded · Neutral · Curated

Minimal but never cold. Warm neutrals, natural wood, organic shapes, and carefully chosen pieces. Quality over quantity — breathing room is part of the design.

Design Styles Overview — Continued

Use this quick-reference chart when you want to compare styles side by side or confirm which direction is right for a specific room.

Style	Best For	Key Colors	Signature Pieces
Modern Traditional	Classic, livable spaces	Warm whites, camel, neutral wood	Rolled-arm sofa, antique wood, symmetrical art
Japandi	Calm, uncluttered homes	Greige, charcoal, sage	Low wood furniture, linen, stone accents
Coastal	Light, breezy rooms	Sandy white, soft blue, natural tan	Rattan chairs, jute rugs, linen drapery
Boho Eclectic	Warm, collected spaces	Terracotta, cream, rust, green	Layered rugs, global textiles, plants
Modern Glam	Bold, polished rooms	Black, cream, gold, jewel tones	Velvet sofa, sculptural lighting, metallics
Warm Minimalist	Serene, edited spaces	Warm white, taupe, honey wood	Organic shapes, quality linens, handmade ceramics

Find Your Style — Mini Worksheet

Fill in this page to capture your instincts before you move forward. There are no wrong answers — this is your creative starting point. *(Click each field to type your answer directly in the PDF.)*

My top 2 favorite design styles are:

The colors I'm most drawn to:

Words that describe how I want my home to feel:

The textures I want more of in my space:

3 things I love about my home right now:

3 things I most want to change:

The room I want to improve first:

My approximate budget for that room:

My inspiration sources (Pinterest, accounts, magazines):

"Find Your Style – Mini Worksheet" Continued

One bold choice I've been afraid to make:

NEXT STEP

Once you've filled this in, take the free style quiz at interiorsbyterrell.com/style-quiz to receive your full style profile, personalized color direction, and a starter shopping guide.

Color Philosophy

Color sets the emotional temperature of a room. Think of it as the first conversation your home has with anyone who walks through the door. Before choosing a paint color, understand the three-part palette system and how light will transform your choices throughout the day.

The 60 / 30 / 10 Palette Rule

Role	% of Room	What It Does	Example
Base	60%	Walls, large furniture, flooring — the dominant tone	Warm White, Greige, Soft Cream
Secondary	30%	Upholstery, drapery, rugs — supporting the base	Warm Taupe, Sage, Dusty Blue
Accent	10%	Pillows, art, accessories — the exclamation point	Terracotta, Gold, Forest Green

Warm vs. Cool Undertones

Every color — even white — has an undertone. Warm undertones (yellow, red, orange) create cozy, inviting spaces. Cool undertones (blue, green, gray) feel calm and airy. Mixing undertone families in one room can make colors look 'off' — identify your base undertone first, then layer within that family.

COMMON MISTAKE	DESIGNER FIX
Choosing a paint color from a chip alone.	Always test a sample on your actual wall and view it at morning, midday, and evening. A color that is perfect at the store may read entirely differently in your space.

Color Philosophy — Continued

Paint Finish Guide

Finish	Sheen	Best For
Flat / Matte	None	Ceilings, low-traffic walls, hiding imperfections
Eggshell	Slight	Living rooms, bedrooms — the most popular finish
Satin	Soft	Hallways, kids' rooms — easy to wipe clean
Semi-Gloss	Medium	Trim, doors, kitchens, bathrooms
High-Gloss	High	Furniture, cabinets, dramatic accent walls

PRO TIP

Start with your undertone, not your favorite color. Choose warm whites for warm wood floors, and cool whites for gray tiles or marble. When in doubt, the most forgiving base is a warm off-white with a yellow or beige undertone.

Furniture & Scale

Scale — the relationship between furniture and room — determines whether a space feels balanced or awkward. Getting it right is the difference between a room that looks designed and one that simply has furniture in it.

Sofa Sizing

Your sofa should be roughly two-thirds the width of the main wall or the rug beneath it. Leave at least 18" between the sofa and coffee table.

Rug Sizing

Choose a rug large enough for at least the front two legs of every seating piece to rest on it. 8x10 and 9x12 are the most common living room sizes.

Coffee Table Height

A coffee table should sit within 1–2" of your sofa seat height — typically between 16" and 18" tall.

Dining Table Clearance

Allow at least 36" between the table and the wall; 48" is ideal for chairs to pull out comfortably.

Artwork Height

Hang artwork so the center sits at eye level — roughly 57"–60" from the floor. Above a sofa, leave 6"–8" between the frame and the sofa back.

COMMON MISTAKE	DESIGNER FIX
Buying a rug that is too small. A small rug makes a room feel disconnected and unfinished, even if the rest of the furniture is right.	Choose a rug large enough for at least the front legs of every seating piece to sit on it. When in doubt, go one size up.

Texture & Layering

Texture is what separates a room that looks designed from one that simply has furniture in it. When all materials feel the same, the space reads as flat. Layering contrasting textures creates depth, warmth, and that 'collected over time' feeling.

Material Mixing Guide

Material	Feel	Pairs Well With
Linen	Airy, casual	Wood, rattan, leather
Velvet	Luxurious, rich	Metal, lacquer, marble
Rattan / Wicker	Organic, relaxed	Linen, wood, cotton
Leather	Grounded, warm	Wool, wood, stone
Wool / Bouclé	Cozy, tactile	Metal, glass, smooth wood
Marble / Stone	Cool, polished	Warm wood, matte finishes
Brass / Gold Metal	Refined, modern	Wood, linen, white surfaces

The 5-Step Layering Formula

1. Start with your largest anchor — sofa, rug, or bed.
2. Add a second texture through curtains, pillows, or a throw.
3. Introduce a natural element: wood, a woven basket, or a plant.
4. Layer in a hard surface: a tray, lamp base, or ceramic vase.
5. Finish with something personal — a book stack, framed print, or found object.

REMEMBER

The goal is a 'collected' look — not a 'decorated' one. Your room should feel like it came together over time, not from a single shopping cart.

Lighting Guide

Think of lighting as the jewelry of the room — it can soften, flatter, highlight, and completely change the mood. It is the most overlooked element in home design, and the one that transforms a space most dramatically when you get it right.

Ambient Lighting

The base layer that illuminates the whole room. Overhead fixtures, recessed lighting, and chandeliers all provide ambient light.

Task Lighting

Focused light for specific activities: reading, cooking, working. Table lamps, under-cabinet lights, and floor lamps near a chair are all task lighting.

Accent Lighting

Decorative light that highlights art, architecture, or focal points. Wall sconces, picture lights, and shelf lighting all fall into this category.

COMMON MISTAKE	DESIGNER FIX
Relying on a single overhead light for the whole room. This creates flat, unflattering light that makes a space feel like an office.	Layer at least two light sources per room: a floor or table lamp alongside the ambient overhead. Add a dimmer for instant atmosphere.

Bulb Temperature Guide

Temperature	Tone	Best For
2700K–3000K	Warm White	Bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms
3500K–4000K	Neutral White	Home offices, kitchens, bathrooms
5000K–6500K	Cool / Daylight	Garages, utility spaces, art studios

QUICK WIN Swap overhead-only lighting for a table or floor lamp on a dimmer. This single change makes most rooms feel instantly warmer and more inviting in the evening.

Room-by-Room Basics

Each room in your home has its own priorities. Use these as a checklist before you begin planning any room refresh or redesign.

Living Room

- Anchor the seating area with a rug large enough for all front legs.
- Create a clear conversation zone — seating should face each other.
- Add at least two light sources beyond the overhead fixture.
- Limit accent colors to 2–3 tones for a cohesive look.
- Leave breathing room — not every surface needs an object.

Bedroom

- The bed is the focal point — invest in a quality headboard or bedframe.
- Use blackout curtains or lined drapery for light control and visual weight.
- Layer bedding: fitted sheet, top sheet, duvet, throw, and 3–5 pillows.
- Nightstands should sit at mattress height or within 2–3 inches.
- Keep the palette calm — this is a rest space first.

COMMON MISTAKE	DESIGNER FIX
Leaving the bedroom ceiling light as the only light source. Overhead light in a bedroom flattens the room and makes it feel institutional.	Add bedside table lamps or wall-mounted sconces at pillow height. Warm 2700K bulbs on a dimmer transform the atmosphere.

Room-by-Room Basics — Continued

Dining Room

- A chandelier or pendant should hang 30"–36" above the tabletop.
- The light fixture should be 12" narrower than the table on each side.
- Choose a table that seats your everyday number plus two for guests.
- A buffet or sideboard adds storage and visual balance to the room.
- Soft textures (upholstered chairs, a rug, curtains) reduce sound in hard-surface rooms.

Home Office

- Position your desk to face the door or a window — not a blank wall.
- Layer task lighting with ambient light to reduce eye strain.
- Vertical storage keeps the floor clear and the room feeling larger.
- Add one personal or decorative element: art, a plant, or a meaningful object.
- A neutral wall aids focus; one accent wall adds personality without distraction.

COMMON MISTAKE	DESIGNER FIX
<p>Skipping the rug in a dining room because it seems impractical.</p>	<p>A rug anchors the dining table and adds warmth and sound absorption. Choose a washable, low-pile rug and size it so chairs stay on the rug even when pulled out.</p>

Pattern & Print Mixing

Mixing patterns confidently is one of the hallmarks of a well-designed room. The key is scale variation paired with a shared color story — so the patterns converse rather than compete.

Large-Scale Pattern

One dominant pattern — a bold floral, wide stripe, or large geometric. Use it on a rug, drapes, or an accent chair. This is your statement.

Medium-Scale Pattern

A secondary pattern at a smaller repeat — a smaller check, a mid-size abstract, or a textured weave. It supports without competing.

Small-Scale or Solid

The grounding element — a micro-texture, simple stripe, or a solid color that ties all patterns together and gives the eye a place to rest.

Pattern Mixing Rules

- Keep the same 2–3 colors running through all patterns.
- Never mix two patterns of the exact same scale — they will compete.
- Stripes work with almost everything — they read as a near-neutral.
- Limit bold patterns to 1–2 items per room.
- Solids and textures count as patterns too — they create visual rhythm.

COMMON MISTAKE	DESIGNER FIX
Mixing two patterns of the same scale. Two equally sized florals or two medium checks next to each other create visual noise instead of interest.	Always vary the scale — pair a large bold pattern with a smaller supporting one, and ground both with a solid or subtle texture.

STYLE NOTE	If pattern feels intimidating, start with a patterned throw pillow or blanket. These small commitments let you test a print before committing to a larger piece.
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Budget Tiers

Beautiful rooms are built at every price point. The key is knowing where to spend and where to save — and building your space with intention over time.

	BUDGET-FRIENDLY	MID-RANGE	INVESTMENT
Sofa	IKEA, Wayfair, Amazon	Article, Albany Park, CB2	RH, Arhaus, Interior Define
Rug	Ruggable, Target, Amazon	Loloi, Surya, Boutique Rugs	Visual Comfort, Dash & Albert
Lighting	Target, West Elm sale	Pottery Barn, CB2, Arteriors	Visual Comfort, Circa
Bedding	Amazon Basics, IKEA	Parachute, Brooklinen	Sferra, Matouk
Art	Society6, Desenio	Minted, Framebridge	Local artists, galleries
Accent Chair	Wayfair, Amazon	World Market, AllModern	Crate & Barrel, Serena & Lily

The Spend vs. Save Framework

SPEND on: Sofas, beds, and quality rugs — pieces you use daily and live with for years.

SAVE on: Accent pillows, throws, candles, small décor — easy to update seasonally.

INVEST in: Statement lighting and original art — these define the personality of a room.

WAIT on: Trendy statement pieces. If you still love it in six months, then buy it.

Designer's Starter Checklist

Before you buy a single thing, run through this checklist. The most expensive decorating mistakes happen when this step is skipped. *(Click each checkbox to check it off directly in the PDF.)*

- Measure the room — length, width, ceiling height, and doorways.
 - Photograph every corner of the room in natural daylight.
 - Identify what must stay (existing furniture, finishes, or architectural features).
 - Choose your main color direction before buying anything.
 - Set a realistic total budget and divide it by category.
 - Decide on one clear room priority — the most impactful change first.
 - Save 5–10 inspiration images that represent the mood you want.
 - Map the room's lighting — natural light direction and existing fixtures.
 - Identify your anchor piece first (sofa, rug, or bed depending on the room).
 - Write a short list of what will make the room feel 'done.'
 - Plan before you purchase — avoid buying décor before the plan is clear.
 - Give yourself permission to build the room over time.
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**WANT A
DEEPER
PLANNING
TOOL?**

The Interiors by Terrell Luxury Home Design Planner walks you through every room with a full budget tracker, vendor list, project timeline, and room-by-room design workbook. Find it at interiorsbyterrell.com/shop.

Your Next Step

You now have the vocabulary, the framework, and a starting point. The best next move is to discover your specific style direction so every decision you make from here has a clear foundation.

Your Best Next Step:

Take the Free Style Quiz

Now that you understand the basics, discover which style direction fits your home, your personality, and your lifestyle. You'll receive your full style profile, a personalized color palette, key furniture recommendations, and a room-planning starter guide.

interiorsbyterrell.com/style-quiz

Want to keep going?

- Browse room-by-room design ideas and style inspiration on the blog.
- Download your free Room Refresh Checklist to take action today.
- Explore the Luxury Home Design Planner — your complete room-planning toolkit.
- Join The Design Lounge for access to planners, workbooks, templates, and community.

As part of the Interiors by Terrell free resource library, you will find practical design tips, room inspiration, decorating tools, and simple ways to create a home that feels beautiful, personal, and pulled together — at your own pace, on your own budget.

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