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Trade secrets

BEST OF THE BLOGS

For a quick fix of ideas and inspiration, **H&H editors** head for the keyboard. Here, our most dog-eared web pages.

- Flea market
- The power of
- Affordable fix
for every room

Homespun aesthetic: www.elseachelsea.typepad.com

—Michael Penney, editorial assistant

Themed posts: www.patriciagrayinc.blogspot.com

—Montana Burnett, assistant market editor

Design history: www.designobserver.com

—Kimberley Brown, features editor

Retro section: www.desiretoinspire.blogspot.com

—Kai Ethier, assistant to the editor



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KITCHEN & BATH RENO STORIES

Bonus: Style your bookshelves like a pro

An ocean of wall colours, mountains of fabric books — no wonder pulling a room together can be intimidating. So we asked designers:

Designer Poll

“Where do you start?”

LOOK AT WHAT YOU LOVE

“My starting point is one of two things — something the client loves or something that reflects their personality or lifestyle. For one client, her martini bar was my starting point; the crystal and silver said a lot about what she liked. The look I created for her was elegant and sophisticated: creamy fabrics and carpets, silver leaf accents, very dark wood and crystal vases.

— **Jane Charron**,
Celadon Collection, Montreal



BEGIN AT THE BOTTOM

“Start with the floor and work up. I find an area carpet can be a good starting point to create a focus for the space.

— **Patricia Gray**,
Patricia Gray Interior Design, Vancouver



FINESSE THE ARCHITECTURE

“I always try to identify flaws or anomalies in the architecture, if there are any, and then correct them. I believe with a beautiful backdrop or foundation, the rest of the scheme will generally fall into place.”

— **Michael Angus**,
Angus & Company, Toronto

MAP OUT A FLOOR PLAN

“Once we have a clear understanding of our clients’ needs, we often use blue painter’s tape and map out where each piece of furniture will go. Plans do not lie! Size and scale are so important for gaining a feeling of balance and flow. Walking around the tape gives a good sense of the layout so that there are no surprises.”

— **Anne Hepfer**,
Anne Hepfer Designs, Toronto



LOOK TO FASHION

“I see how the client dresses and sometimes ask to look in their closet. Usually the clothes reflect their style and they wear colours that are flattering to their face.”

— **Timothy P. Matber**,
TM Design, Toronto



HEAD TO THE LIBRARY

“The first thing I do is imagine the mood I want to create. I look through lots of books for inspiration. Taschen is one of my favourite publishers because they do these great books on interiors, art and design, such as *Living in Morocco*, *London Interiors*, *Indian Interiors*, etc.”

— **Holly Dymont**,
Holly Dymont Design, Toronto

GET THE AMBIANCE RIGHT

“I look at the atmosphere a client wants to create and pull concepts for inspiration: it could be a piece of fabric, a photo or a painting. I also print out a picture of the room to get a perspective that you may not get from being there. I usually sketch on top of the photo — for example, I might draw in a painting if there’s an empty space on the wall that needs balancing.”

— **Sloan Mauran**,
Sloan Mauran Interior Design, Toronto

