

# BRINGING TOGETHER 'HIS' & 'HER' STYLE

BY YANIC SIMARD



**THE REALITY IS THAT ONCE YOU MOVE IN** together you have to share a space, and your space ultimately reflects your style. You have to take what you both have already and determine what to keep, what will work and what won't. Weather it be her childhood teddy bear, or that ugly thing he calls a "sofa," the issue that arises is how to blend her past along with his, and still have an extremely well-decorated and tasteful place to go home to.

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Do we have to keep that? What is that? What do we need to buy? These are just some of the questions that will come up along the way. You both need to be on board, and working toward a design goal that will make both of you happy at the end of the day. Hopefully you share at least some of the same taste!

Opposites attract, so pairing your pieces together can work. Mix heavier and lighter pieces together, and mix opaque with transparent. When you start mixing and matching your styles you will be surprised at how harmonious it can look. Just make sure that you listen to each other – you need to understand each other's needs and wants. It's a good idea to spend a weekend and analyze what you both have to determine where you stand in terms furnishings for your home.

Will you be having children down the road? Children will determine a lot of things, such as what you really need to invest in. Do you really need that 52-inch plasma television, or should you spend on something else? Make a wish list that is prioritized, starting with what you really need and where your money needs to go first. Find common ground and choose on an overall design style and concept.

If you have a piece of furniture that you just can't

let go of, changing the look of it is the best way to hold onto it. Consider re-upholstery or painting it to match your new blended décor. Complement your existing furniture with newer pieces that link both styles. You can take his dining room chairs, match it with her dining room table, and purchase a new light fixture that will join the two styles. By combining your pieces, you can create some of the most visually interesting and appealing rooms.

Merging your styles together will not happen overnight. Eventually the two styles will come together, creating what will hopefully be a balanced and harmonious space. Combining the styles will take thought, and weather it be including her teddy bear, or that ugly sofa of his, it just needs to be executed in the right way, creating an extremely well-decorated and tasteful place to go home to.



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Yanic is the principal designer of Toronto Interior Design Group, specializing in residential and commercial projects. Yanic has created designs for clients in Toronto, Montreal and Miami, and appears as a regular guest expert on Citytv's *CityLine*. Visit [tidg.ca](http://tidg.ca) for more information.