

DECORATING WITH DRAMA...

Forget “black & white,” it’s all or nothing!

BY YANIC SIMARD



BLACK IS ELEGANT AND TIMELESS but can be a little intimidating in large doses when it comes to home décor. Coming up with a room scheme consisting of all-black décor is about combining a different variety of elements so it doesn't end up looking dull and lifeless. You want it to have punch and personality. Here are some ways to achieve that double dose of drama:

WALL TREATMENT

Painting all of the walls in a matte-black finish might leave you feeling like you're sitting in a dark hole – so I wouldn't advise taking that route. If you're going to paint all the walls black, go with a semi-gloss or even a high-gloss finish. A true black paint that I like to use is Benjamin Moore's Jet Black, 2120-10. To add to the black walls, why not have one feature wall using a black tone-on-tone wallpaper? Graham & Brown offers a good variety at affordable price points, one of my personal favourites being their Black Cubix Pattern.

DIFFERENT FINISHES

Combine a variety of different finishes together help create a more visually appealing room – especially if you're designing in a monochromatic colour scheme.



Bring in a variety of different materials, such as stone, glass, leather, black-painted metal, you get the idea. Choose a reflective accent finish such as chrome or gold, and copper is really hot right now! Now, decorating with black isn't so scary after all, is it?

LAYERING

An all-black, modern furniture setting can sometimes seem a little bit cold. Warm it up by layering as much as you can. Load up your sofa or bed with lots of black cushions, I'd say a minimum of five, and put one or two on your side chairs as well. Since all of the cushions will be black,

mix up the different types of fabric you use: faux fur, cotton, silk, velvet – again, trying to steer away from the “flat” black look. Another way to layer is with your area rugs. Layer one area rug on top of another, such as a 9-by-12-ft. rectangular rug with a 5-by-7-ft. cowhide on top.

WARM IT UP

If I haven't fully convinced you about decorating your space entirely in black, then warm it up with an accent colour. Black looks particularly elegant with navy blue and/or caramel tones. Infuse your accent colours in artwork, pillows, blankets and accessories.

Most people get a little nervous when it comes to the thought of designing with black. The funny thing is, I've noticed that whenever it's done in a model home, it sends the reviews skyrocketing and has people raving about how stunning it looks! And if you do it in your home, you'll have your family, friends and guests talking about the beauty of it for years to come.



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Yanic is the principal designer of Toronto Interior Design Group. Specializing in residential and commercial projects, Yanic often applies his signature high/low and old/new combination techniques in developing his unique designs. He has created designs for clients in Toronto, Montreal and Miami, and appears as a regular guest expert on Citytv's *CityLine*. Visit tidg.ca for more information.