

On the Couch With Gia Russo

Learn decorating tips and tricks that you can try at home from *REAL SIMPLE. REAL LIFE.*'s design expert Gia Russo.



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Decorating Don'ts

MHI: What's the most common mistake people make when they're decorating their home?:

Gia Russo (GR): They take on too much. Concentrate and budget one room at a time. I recommend starting with the room that is the most important in your home, because you can take the time to buy furniture and accessories and get an end result you'll love. **Buying home decor** is an investment, so it's important to take the time buying these pieces, not buy them all at once.

> Next: 1 Space, 2 Rooms



1 Space, 2 Rooms

MHI: How do you deal with a combined living room/dining room?

GR: **Combined living** and dining rooms are easy to make functional for both uses. When setting the rooms, think of them separately, but make sure the space for furniture will work together and create good flow. Create an area within the space for the table, chairs, and a great lighting fixture. Across from the dining room, set the sofa, coffee table, and so on.

Before placing your furniture, look at the empty space and sketch a few different layouts that will work for your family. This is important because you want to make sure you don't get stuck with furniture that is too big for the space.

> Next: Color Cues

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Color Cues

MHI: What colors do you love for interiors?

GR: There are many colors that I love right now. Two of my favorite color palettes are grass green, taupe, and white and pale yellow, grey, and white. They are sophisticated, fresh palettes that will look great with many design styles -- and the colors are timeless.

> Check out paint colors that boost your mood.

> Next: First Things First



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