



Symmetry in vogue

As the sun comes up a little earlier and goes down later - we think of Spring and new beginnings, new hobbies, changes in our lifestyles – and for many of us - home improvements both internally and externally, writes Interior Designer Emma Rees.



We may want to give our homes a make-over (home-staging) to entice homebuyers or simply alter them to suit changing lifestyles and ensuring continued love of our surroundings. If you are in the right mood it could be a case of access all areas! Whatever the reason, here are my design tips for 2013.

Choosing a **paint** colour can be tricky as many of us think that being too daring would put potential house buyers off. The secret is to counter-balance deeper colours with subtle shades. Farrow & Ball has announced that the key colours for 2013 are Black Blue, French Grey, Stone Blue and Cornforth White.

Rich reds are also popular. I am not suggesting that everything is basked in red, but dropping shades of red into a scheme with the addition of cushions or by the display of beautiful roses will add a degree of opulence to a room. You could also consider painting one themed wall (ie a single wall) in a room. When you are choosing colours from a paint chart, ensure you paint samples on a card and watch the colour change as you position the card in different areas around the room as the light changes. Ensure the colours you choose complement existing furniture and soft furnishings. Wallpaper has made a big revival



during 2012 and will continue in 2013. It is the easiest way to add pattern, texture and character to a room. It is worth remembering, however, that **wallpaper** are pieces of art and sometimes it is best not to cover it up with pictures or furniture which could detract or complicate the interior design look.

Soft furnishings introduce texture and comfort to your home. Introduce bolder colours and textures in **cushions** to add interest to your rooms but remember to integrate the look by interspersing them with plain fabrics. All fabrics can be enriched with clever use of styles and trims. The added benefit of soft furnishings is that you can take all of the items with you when moving home!

Good lighting depends on selecting the appropriate **lighting** for the needs and requirements of the room. I like to apply symmetry in my design and provide balance in a room by using two of the same lamps either side of objects. For reading and more focused practical lighting I suggest task lamps (desk lamps) and pendant lights for dining tables.

For pictures, it is all a question of balance. Arrange them in groups using frames that complement each other. Single, stand out, **paintings** need to be hung in proportion to the size of the wall.

And finally, don't forget the **exterior** entrances of your house. My quest for symmetry applies here too - plant decorative trees or plants/bulbs in attractive pots, either side of the doors and let the sunshine in!



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