



What's Your Favorite Colour?

By Tina McMillan

Home sweet home ... or is it? Have you ever seen a photograph in a decorating magazine and wondered how to recreate that certain feeling or look? Whether you've just bought a new house or are planning on renovating/changing a current room, you can use the same tools.

First you must ask yourself the 5 W's:

Who will be predominantly using the space?

Yourself or Significant Other
Children
Occasionally by Visitors/Relatives

What is the feeling you want the space to reflect?

Casual or Formal
Cozy or Spacious
Warm or Cool Colour Scheme

When will the space be occupied?

Morning, Afternoon, or Evening
Lighting Concerns/Exposures
Weekends and Holidays

Where is the space located?

Main, Upper, or Basement Level
An Addition or Existing Area
Any Structural Changes (Floor Plan)

Why am I doing this?

Update
New Member of the Family
Your Lifestyle has Changed

The most important question is your **budget** and time constraints. How much do you **want** to spend? How much **will** you spend? How much **can** you spend? Do you need it to be completed this week, month, or year? If you make a plan first, then you will save yourself both time and money in the long run.

When you are ready to hire a painter/contractor/decorator, always get at least **three** quotes and referrals on your project. Talk to friends and family to see if they have had first-hand experience with a professional. There will most likely be a range in pricing offered, this is when you need to do your homework and to some extent follow your instincts. Remember, this person will be spending anywhere from two hours to two months in your home, so you must feel that you can trust them to respect your property. Lastly, confirm that they have the proper insurance/coverage.

Once you have answered all of the questions you now know which direction to take. Hire a Professional! (Just kidding.) Having a plan in place will make it possible to eliminate the overwhelming number of choices facing you at the beginning of your project.



Tina McMillan is a Certified Interior Designer and owner of McMillan Interiors Inc.

The services she provides include interior decorating, colour consulting, space planning, home redesign and staging, window treatments, furniture selection, and curb appeal.

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