

SUITE SUCCESS



Functional Furnishings



Your Furniture Plan

It's About Where Not Just What

By Red Barrinuevo

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As the saying goes, it's not just the tools in your toolbox that get the job done; it's how you use them. Think of your furnishings as tools that serve a functional, spatial and aesthetic purpose – when used correctly.

As a stylist and “redesigner,” I find that more often than not, the furnishings themselves aren't the problem. Rather, it's their arrangement that can make a home feel cramped, inefficient or just plain awkward.

So, What's the Trick to Proper Furniture Placement in Your Space?

The first step is to measure, then measure again. The size of your space will define the type of furnishings you will incorporate, and how many pieces you need.

So, Time to Hit the Showroom?

Not so fast. Measuring is an important step not to be missed. I often find that furniture looks smaller in the store because of its wide, open space and high ceilings. When you bring that L-shaped sofa home, it takes up your whole living area. Measuring before you buy helps you avoid any unpleasant surprises and the hassle of returns.

Once You have an Idea of Size, Think about Function

These days, particularly in today's modern, open-concept homes, a single space needs to serve many purposes – for example, foyer, dining area, living area, family room and work space. A solid plan complemented by the right furniture selections will make this multifunctional space work.

This is Where “Zoning” Comes into Play

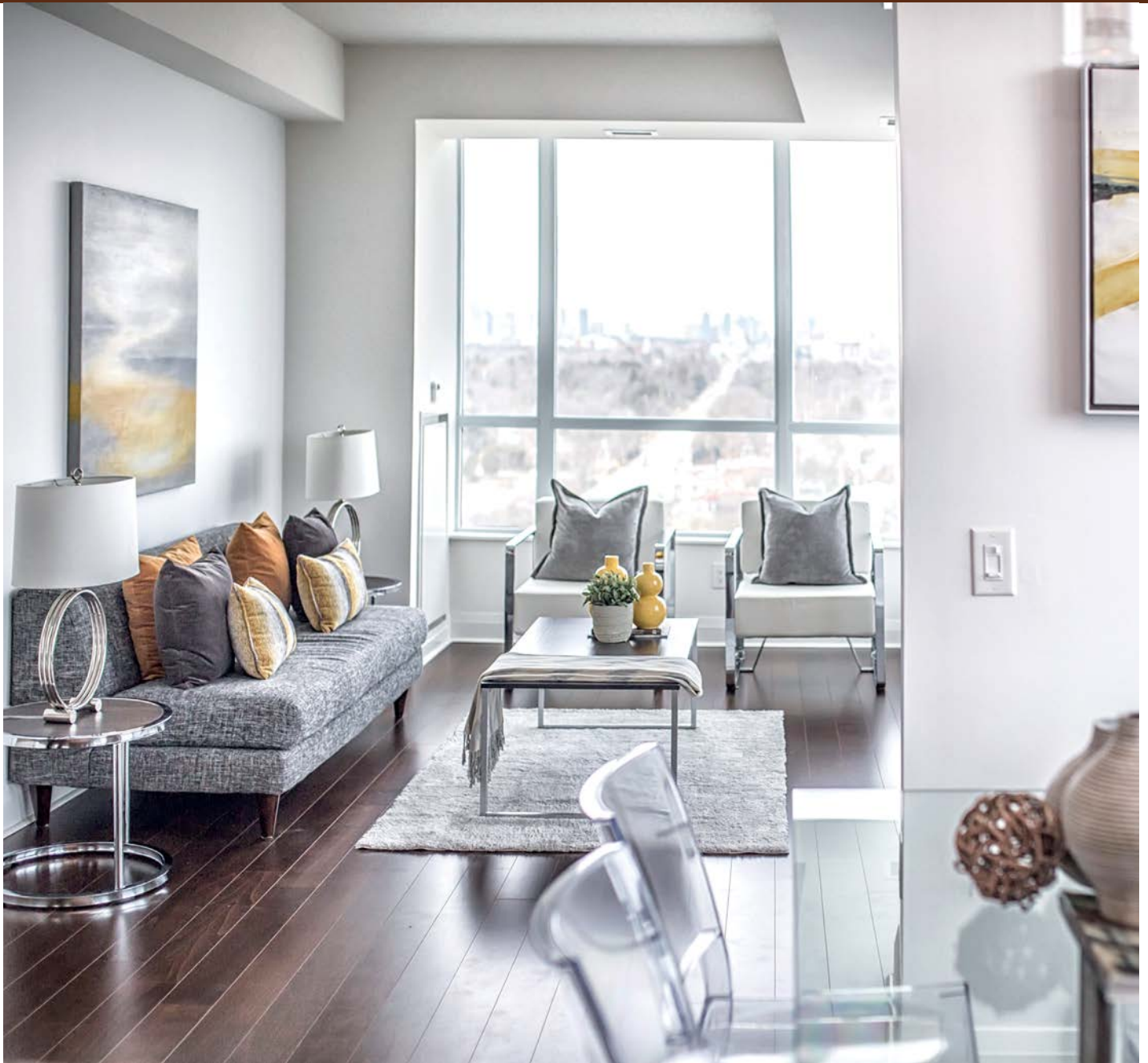
Think about creating several intimate conversation areas. You can achieve this with colours and strategic elements. One or two chairs, a side table, a great lamp and a mid-sized rug underfoot are all you need.

As You Plan Out the Zones in Your Space, Think about Your Traffic Patterns

How do you walk through the room to get to an adjoining space or another zone within the room?







In a dining area, you need at least three feet between the wall and the dining chair to allow room to pull out the chair without bumping into the wall.

With that said, intimacy is key to a good conversation zone. Don't be afraid to place a couple of chairs close together and tell someone your story!

Lastly, Look Up

High ceilings make a big difference in the overall feel of a room. If your living room is blessed with high ceilings, take full advantage of that extra space. Although vertical space does not give you extra seating, what it can do

is draw the eye upward, which gives the impression of a bigger and grander room than it is. Fill in vertical space with gallery photos or a beautiful gallery wall.

Beautiful furniture that's improperly placed will fall flat. Redesigning a room to get that wow factor often involves a few new furniture finds coupled with your existing pieces, and a well-planned perspective on how to place them.

