

Create focal points for stylish spaces

For a cohesive and polished look, pick furnishings and decor items that fall within a certain style type, says architect and interior designer Sangeetha Mayur

THE most significant thing of a home is comfort. It goes a long way in translating the personality and taste of the person living. It does not matter whether you are living in a big colonial mansion or a small rented apartment, what matters the most is how you have styled your house. Home décor is defined by your personal touch and unique style that makes a space, your home and

you - feel instantly comfortable and warm.

While decorating a space, we must pay attention to the natural focal point of the room, lifestyle of the family members, functional placement of furniture, visual balance, ambient lighting, color scheme of the room and fabric patterns of the curtains and upholstery.

Here are a few tips to spice up the various spaces in your home:

LIVING DECOR: A spacious and elegant design of the living room can unify areas of a home that are used for different purposes. The design flows easily from seating areas, to the dining room, and even into the kitchen. Home décor elements such as interesting coffee table / glassware, mirrors, designer wall clocks, chandelier, staircase and rail-



ing designs, gallery of photos, wall papers and wooden paneling elements, plush carpets, rugs defines and amplifies the living space. Most importantly, add a green that softens and cheers up a lonely corner in a living decor like a potted tree.

KITCHEN: The kitchen being one of the most important

rooms in the home has many aspects such as work shapes and layout, storage space, lighting and color schemes that have to be detailed out with attention to achieve a functional yet aesthetic appeal. Differently textured & durable countertops look interesting and add depth to the room. Latest stainless steel appliances and accessories increase the utili-

tarian workspaces and are the highlights of today's modular kitchens.

BEDROOM: It is best to select a theme for the bedroom and only accommodate items that go well with the theme. Innovative false ceiling, texture paints, high gloss interior door, bedside lamps, curtains, wooden floorings, artistic mirror frames, and the choice of bed by itself provides a touch of flair to the decor of your bedroom, thereby enhancing the appearance.

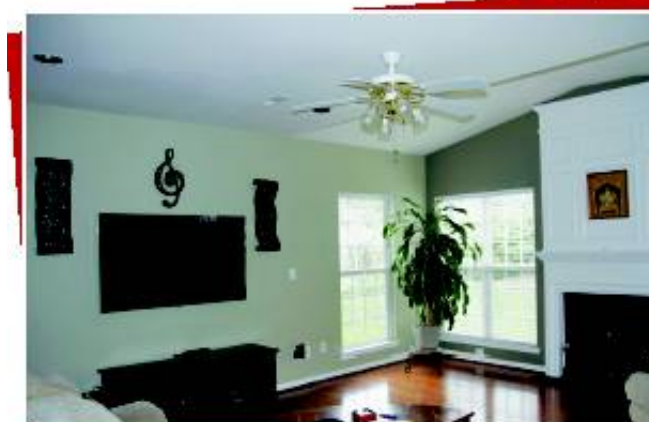
BATH: Wet rooms say something about your sense of style, status and your lifestyle. The new bathroom trend today emphasizes on a simpler, spacious and cleaner bathrooms that include ergonomics issues, dry bathrooms and water saving techniques, aesthetic designs, LED light systems, and ease of use.

Though there are many different types of home decor styles to choose from, for a cohesive and polished look, you'll want to pick furnishings and decor items that fall within a certain type of style. Lastly, let your personality, neighborhood, and the things you love help you pick the best style for you.

Five decor themes:

TRADITIONAL: The style tends to be warm, giving the home a welcome feeling. The accessories are cozy and tend to be pillows, lamps on end tables, and still life paintings. Curved lines, intricate details, dark woods and stucco finished walls, lustrous accent materials, crown moldings and decorative trims are typical to this theme.

MODERN: The theme is characterized by chrome,



black leather, and glass finishes, ultra suede and rich textures, simplified shapes and natural or lacquered finished accessories, ergonomically shaped & high functionality furniture.

RETRO: The style can provide the perfect platform for vintage collectors and flea-market shoppers to display their most treasured finds. Stone artifacts, animal hides & wool upholsteries, distressed metal & leather furniture, prominent fireplaces and cozy seating exemplify this theme.

COUNTRY: Whether it's a

simple American country, an English Victorian or the more elaborate French provincial design, decorations are often wood or wrought iron and the fabrics are floral. There is usually a mix of patterns and colors with a rich texture of brocade, and velvet materials.

CONTEMPORARY: The theme embraces straight lines and sharp corners that are stylish. The furnishings may be minimal, but the colors tend to be bold, highly contrasting and the accessories - metallic or acrylic. There are also often abstract decorations.