



## How to create a room with style!

By Ellinor Ellefson

Interior Designer, Allied Member ASID, Elle Interiors

Great spaces do not happen by accident. Some people have a gift for putting together rooms in a way that is pleasing to the eye, as well as comfortable and functional. However, most people struggle with this. What seem so easy turns out to be hard, almost impossible. No matter what new things they add to the space, or if they paint or add accessories, the room still does not come together. As an interior designer, I have had extensive training in how to approach a room. To create a room that is physically and psychologically comfortable, as well as beautiful and functional, I use my knowledge of the principles and elements of design. Here, I will share with you, what I find to be the 10 most important things to consider when creating a great room with style!

### 1. Analyze the space.

Always start by analyzing the space. How is the space used? Who uses the space? How big is it, how tall are the ceilings? Where are the windows and the doorways? What shape is the room? What type of architectural features does it have?

### 2. Edit your styles.

If you are working with mostly existing furniture, the next step would be to start editing your styles. Many people do not consider style when they go out shopping for new pieces. They just get what they like, and become frustrated when it does not work with what is already there. Try to narrow your styles down to not more than 3, and try to get the styles you like to connect in some way or another. Some styles work really well together, some not as much.



### 3. Consider the scale.

Large rooms require larger pieces, small rooms, smaller pieces. Many of us in Phoenix live in homes with large rooms and very tall ceilings. These rooms require larger furniture, larger art pieces, and larger accessories. Older homes are usually smaller in scale and ceiling height, and then, smaller of everything is the answer.

#### 4. Make sure the proportions are right.

Hand in hand with scale, proportions are something that always should be considered. Proportion refers to the relationship between things, for example; the size of a window should be in proportion with the room. Great scale is achieved when all the parts of a room, including furniture etc, are proportionately correct relative to each other, as well as to the whole.



#### 5. Consider the lines.

Try to incorporate a variety of lines into the room. An example of vertical lines would be columns, curtains, or large tall furniture pieces. Horizontal lines would be most furniture pieces. Diagonal lines can be found in a balustrade, art pieces, and accessories, as would curved lines.

#### 6. Find balance between all the items in a room.

This means that furnishings should be distributed evenly throughout the space. For a large room, this would mean that if you have a seating group in one-half of the room, you should fill the other half with something as well. Another good example is for hanging art. Two pictures of equal size look great hanging side by side. Two pictures of very different sizes do not. Try then instead to pair the large pictures with *two* smaller ones.

#### 7. Find a focal point.

When we walk into a room, our eyes always look for a place to stop first – a focal point. Every room should have a focal room. This can be a fireplace, a beautiful window with a view, or a beautifully dressed bed. Decide what the focal point in your room is, and enhance it.



#### 8. Use color.

Color really is the most powerful way to change the character of a room. It is also a relatively inexpensive way to improve any space, and if you get tired of a certain color and want to try something else, it can be done without spending a fortune. Color is a complex topic that I will talk more about in another newsletter.



### 9. Use a variety of patterns and textures.

A room becomes alive with a variety of patterns and textures. A trick for mixing patterns is to provide some kind of link between scale, motif, and/or color. Do not be afraid to mix different patterns, but try to link them by shared colors, or a similar intensity between the prints. Textures in a room are equally important. By using a large variety of different textures, a room feels richer and more sophisticated.



### 10. Lighting.

In addition, do not forget that for all this to come together as a beautiful and comfortable room, you also need good lighting, as well as a variety of lighting. Sometimes a room that feels boring might just be poorly lit.

If you need help with new ideas for your home, call or email me at 602-751-1178, [ellinor@elleinteriorsaz.com](mailto:ellinor@elleinteriorsaz.com). I am always here for all your interior design, decorating, and remodeling questions and needs!

Have fun – and remember that the money you put into your home is money that you get to enjoy every day!



**Ellinor Ellefson**, Interior Designer, Allied Member ASID, Elle Interiors

*Ellinor Ellefson, allied member ASID, of Elle Interiors, specializes in residential interior design and small commercial spaces. She believes that great spaces are for everyone, and that you do not have to sacrifice style and good looks in order to stick to a budget. Ellinor Ellefson offers a **free first time consultation** to all new clients; call her today at **602-751-1178** or visit her website at [www.elleinteriorsaz.com](http://www.elleinteriorsaz.com).*

Beauty – Comfort – Function – Always Together