



maximalism

Right now, the trend in interior design is Maximalism. It is the opposite of the minimalistic and mid-century approach to interiors, Maximalism is all about layers of collecting, patterns and found objects and yes, its excess of decoration. A more [Tony Duquette](#) approach, of using collected, found or curated furnishings, fabrics and accessories that really don't match.

This is a room at the "[Dawnridge](#)" house built by Mr. Duquette in 1949.



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Maximalist in design is more of the mindset of, "more is better" Often

punctuated with bright colors and a sense of luxury,

The antithesis of minimalism, you could even categorize maximalism as ‘eclectic,’ or ‘eccentric.’ I enjoy homes where the owners have been able to collect items and furnishings from their interests, travels, and family histories, and create a Maximalist, warm home. These are the folks who may feel a room minimally decorated is just not enough for them. More is more, and they love what many would consider cluttered spaces.

People who gravitate towards Maximalism generally have strong personalities. Some would say they just don’t feel complete unless their rooms are filled with their assemblages of art, furniture, and decorations. I would add that they celebrate their lives and personalities through their accumulation of what captures their interest.

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A little too much is just enough for me! I like opulent, maximalist rooms, and I like to use one-of-a-kind elements.

— Hutton Wilkinson

It’s really a great challenge to take on and enjoy. You do, however, run the risk of creating a kitsch look. I will give you a few pointers on how to avoid that in this newsletter.

Mismatched pieces become the name of the game.

The irony here is, you don’t have to completely redecorate a room to give it a Maximalist look but to create an overstated, luxurious look without living in a clutter-filled zone with mismatched pieces is not an easy task. You can end up with what looks like a garage sale. Sometimes it helps to hire a true editing hand to help balance the color, pattern, and scale.

I would start by considering what you love and what you want to surround yourself with. Then we would decide on the main color that will ground the other colors you will put against it. I recommend that you begin with a simple palette on your walls, floors and if you’re adding new furniture, the same. You could go monochromatic here and let the color come only from the furnishing, which will produce a somewhat more organized feel.

From there, I would enhance with accent colors in texture and patterns. If

your clients have pieces they want to incorporate, then your palette and scale will determine itself in many ways. Here's where you can be creative in the placement and use of those pieces.

The Dawnridge House



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
TIM STREET-PORTER

The finishing touches for Maximalism are highly decorative pieces, textural overlays, heavy ornamentation, baroque frames, floral embellishments (real or fake), and large vases. Modern and graphic art is very popular today as is bold, glamorous photography. Just make sure it's art you can live with, every day.

Funny isn't it, that we're now moving into the Spring cleaning mode and this style offers a way to add instead of purge. Not a style I would recommend if you hate to dust!

Found some beautiful new **Tribal** inspired designs from [Robert Allen](#) so please, check out my [Blog](#) to see them. While you're there, take a look back on some of my design ideas, inspirations, and conversations. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Kindest Regards,

Lauren





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Best of Houzz - 3 years in a row!



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