HOW TO PUT AN INTERIORS MOOD BOARD TOGETHER

Making your HOME beautiful

by Samantha Bacon
INTRO
Designers use mood boards to get a sense of the look and the feel they want to achieve. It is by no means a reflection of exactly which colours or finishes will be used in a space, it is simply a starting reference point. Clients tell me that one of their biggest problems when deciding how to decorate a room is that they like so many things! One day it is a classic coastal look while the next it is more of a Boho vibe and then that classic country look is also lovely – which way to go?
NO DEFINITE STYLE

The most important thing to remember is that there is no definite style or trend you have to follow – what is fun is taking what you like most from each and getting it to work together. Let’s face it unless we have an unlimited budget, which is few of us, we all have furniture items and accessories that we are stuck with. That’s why it is so good to buy classic pieces.

Photo credits – Pebbles Jorn Sølyren, Driftwood Alyson Hurt, Ocean Wonderlane
STAND BACK

‘This is easy for you to say’ – I hear you comment. And it is because I can stand back and assess what you have to work with and which style I think may suit. But it has to be you that loves the room and only you can settle on the look that you want. This is where a mood board is invaluable. A mood board gives you the opportunity to amass all your ideas and put them all together in one place. You can then objectively stand back – as a designer does – and view everything together to see which style and colours you love the most.
A mood board gives you the opportunity to reflect on your desired look and add things and take things away as the days pass. When you find the right neutral or a lamp that you love, you can add it to the board. When you see a cushion you love, rather than impulse buying it, take a photo and add it to the board and then double check that it fits into your look before going back to purchase it.
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TAKE TIME, IT’S WORTH IT

This may sound time consuming but a look that comes together over 2-3 weeks (even if it does clutter up the dining table) is preferable to a room of impulse buys where nothing really works.

Photo credit Robin Jay
LETS GET STARTED

So I hope I have inspired you to get planning for your next decorating project – here are the steps you need to take:

- You will need a large blank board, lots of pins and an open mind.
- Start with what you are keeping – a sofa, favourite chair, artwork etc.
- Select images from Pinterest or magazines that appeal to you. Don’t overthink the process at this stage – just save what you gravitate towards. This is not necessarily a reflection of how your room will be, it will be more of a starting point for how it might be.
- Once you have all your images lay them out on a table, or on a screen if using Pinterest, and see where there are common links. For example do you keep selecting images with a timber floor or with dark walls or fresh white.
• Take note of the common links and start to get a feeling for the look and mood that you want to create.

• Now assess your space and consider what you have to work with: Natural light, small or large, things that can’t move – eg. Fireplaces, doors etc. Now take the time to measure the space and either draw it up on screen or on good old-fashioned graph paper. This only needs to be perfect if you are ordering furniture – for the purposes of a mood board it just prompts you to think about what you need in the space.

• Go back to the beginning where you assessed the items that you have to keep or a favourite artwork or lamp etc. that you want to build a scheme around.

• Quietly assess your inspirational images and your reference points for the room and now on a large board start to pin your absolute favourites. Print off the images from Pinterest – this process really is best done on a physical board so that you can get the colours absolutely right. If you have heaps of Pinterest images, try to collate them and then leave your laptop open with the physical board.
• Gather paint charts and cut out the whites/neutrals and colours that you like. Some paint companies will sell you larger brush outs or sample chips that can be really useful. Many of the smaller companies will sell you fan decks for a reasonable fee which is a good investment.

• Go fabric hunting and gather samples that appeal. Fabric houses will usually give you samples, even if they won’t sell the fabric to you and many online suppliers will sell samples for a small fee. You can use these fabric samples as a guide as a furniture supplier may have a set range for you to select from and you can use your inspirational fabric to find the closest match.

• Look on-line at your favourite stores and download images of items that you love – don’t bother with anything that you quite like – if you are paying hard-earned money for it then you should love it! Print off and add these images to your board.
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- Don’t worry if you double up on samples and images – you can take things away when you can consider everything together. The whole point of the mood board is to drill down to get the colour scheme, look and feel right rather than a final shopping list.

- Finally include images that you really love. It could be a photo of some Peonies or a gorgeous vase or artwork – it may not be anything that you could ever own but it will help bring the overall look together and help you to see whether you are on the right track or not.

- Now leave the board on show for a week or two and just keep mulling over it – add things and take items away until you have a look that you love.
AND FINALLY ...

Don’t be concerned if your look doesn’t fit into a particular style – there is nothing wrong with a beach boho vibe with a touch of soft country and some Moroccan silver finishes – just ensure it is a look that you love!
ABOUT SAMANTHA

I’m Samantha, an interior decorator and colour professional who loves to share my interior design trade secrets and favourite decorating schemes and ideas. I grew up in London, lived in Asia during my twenties and finally settled near the gorgeous coastline and beaches of Sydney, Australia. Along the way, I have spent time travelling in North America and Europe and my great passion has been learning about the different trends and decorating schemes of the world. During the past 15 years I have established a successful interior decorating business, been a teacher of colour, styles and trends and a regular contributor to Australian lifestyle magazines, In addition to my passion for travelling, I love to write. So thanks for finding me so that I can share with you my knowledge and tips from the world of interior design that I have acquired over the years. And, hopefully I can help make your home truly beautiful as well. I hope you will join me in learning more about styles and colour and share the enjoyment of my continuing design journey around the world. In the process I would love to hear from you about your interior decorating dilemmas, your colour choices and your plans for your home renovations – I hope you join in the conversation. Happy decorating!

VIEWING THE COLOURS

The colour schemes and pictures in this eBook have been selected from a range of sources. We have carefully managed the colours to ensure they are as close as possible to true paint colours. Colour reproduction can vary when viewing colours on your screen. For full accuracy and complete satisfaction we recommend that you test your colour selections at home using sample pots.