

Weekly Tip #2 -July 7, 2013

Themes-Friend or Foe?

As I started to write this week's tip, it was apparent to me that a follow up to last week's tip was needed. After my first weekly tip was posted, I received several comments and questions and most were related to "how and where do I start with a project".

Most people already have an idea of what they want to do, but putting it all together can be a bit overwhelming! What I've experienced as being the culprit to that problem, is the amount of choices we have available that can lead to a severe case of procrastination, as we continuously change our mind on a design concept every time we open a magazine or find a new post on a favorite website!

The easiest way for me to mainstream a project and get it moving into action is to create a theme and stick with it! I realize the word "theme" sends shivers down some spines and evokes thoughts of that kitchen décor with the cute little ducky's with Babushkas everywhere or the bathrooms with the Luau theme, you know the ones where the toilet paper dispenser has little pineapples on the ends and the shower curtain has a Hawaiian print complete with curtain hooks in shape of Palm trees! Geez, I hope I didn't insult anyone, but you get the idea here, right? While some themes can be a little over the top, not all themes need to be so prominent or so obvious, as a matter of fact a theme is simply a commonality of ideas, and it can be as simple as a particular color pallet or a subtle nature inspired motif. However, if your six year old insist on a Darth Vader birthday party theme, "may the force be with you" and have fun with it!

So once you get past the fear of a theme, here are some good reasons why a theme will help you. First and foremost, having a theme keeps you from making impulsive purchases, you're shopping with a purpose, you know what you want and you can focus on finding those items; no more buying three pillows until you decide which one works, especially because many of us never return the unwanted pillows. If you've decided on a Lavender and Maize color pallet, then that leopard print isn't really necessary, is it? Seriously, you'll be surprised at how easy it is to resist purchasing the cutest little knick knacks when you're on a mission to find a particular item and saving money is never a bad thing.

Another good reason for using a theme, is you avoid wasting time, no more wandering through stores for hours looking for inspiration, my time is valuable and I'm sure yours is too!

Lastly and most importantly, when using a well thought out and planned theme, your end result will be a cohesive, balanced and visually inspiring look!