

The background image is a high-quality photograph of a living room. It features a large, white-painted brick fireplace with a dark arched opening. To the left of the fireplace is a dark blue cabinet with multiple drawers and doors. In front of the cabinet is a grey upholstered ottoman with a white fringed throw blanket and a woven basket. A large window on the left side of the room provides natural light. The ceiling has two large, round, woven pendant lights. The overall style is modern and cozy.

THE DESIGNER'S STYLING CHECKLIST

Simple steps to transform your space with ease,
created by a seasoned designer with years of
hands on industry experience.





CREATE A SPACE THAT FEELS
COHESIVE AND PROFESSIONALLY
STYLED



THE KIND OF FINISH YOU'D
EXPECT AFTER WORKING WITH
AN EXPERIENCED INTERIOR
DESIGNER, WITHOUT NEEDING
ONE IN THE ROOM.

Something I've learnt over the years in interiors is that styles and trends will always come and go, but the feeling of a home is what truly lasts.

I've had clients come to me with folders full of screenshots and Pinterest boards, all based on whatever is "in" at the moment. At the start, they'll often say things like, "I just want it to look like this Instagram house." But when we really start talking, what actually comes out is completely different. They want a place where their kids can curl up on the sofa, where friends feel comfortable kicking their shoes off, where the lighting feels soft at night and the kitchen island naturally becomes the heart of the home.

What I've learnt is that my job isn't to force the latest trend into their space. It's to listen to their direction, understand the character of their home and read between the lines of what they're really craving. Sometimes that means pulling back on the "show home" look and leaning more into warmth, texture and practicality. Sometimes it means respecting the bones of an older home rather than stripping it of its charm to make it look ultra-modern.

Trends will continue to evolve; colours, finishes, shapes, all of it will change. But if I stay anchored in my clients' lives, their personalities and the natural character of the house, the result always feels right. The spaces I'm most proud of aren't the ones that scream for attention; they're the ones that feel humble, welcoming and quietly beautiful for the people who live there every day. That's what I always try to design for.

Great styling isn't about filling a room, it's about shaping a feeling. The rooms that instantly look "put together" are the ones where scale, light, colour and texture all work quietly in harmony.

I created this checklist to help you see your space through a designer's eye. These are the simple, foundational principles I use every day when I'm styling a home, refreshing a room or pulling together the finishing touches of a project.

No matter your style or budget, these guidelines will help you create a home that feels balanced, intentional and beautifully lived in.

jess



Location: Mt Martha

Job: Byron

LAYOUT AND FLOW

Before any cushions, candles or décor is selected, the bones of the room need to feel right. A well-planned layout instantly makes a space more functional, welcoming and visually calm.

When I'm working out the layout of a space I always start with how it needs to function day to day. I look at how you move through the room and I map the layout around that flow. From there I size furniture, accessories and decor carefully so the pieces feel balanced and comfortable rather than oversized or cramped.

I edit out anything that is not truly needed so the space can breathe. Every item has a purpose, whether it is for comfort, storage or creating layers with texture and warmth, so that the space is practical and pretty.

CHECKLIST

- ☒ Are the furniture pieces scaled appropriately for the room
- ☒ Is there enough natural walkway space
- ☒ Does the room have a clear focal point
- ☒ Do the larger pieces feel visually balanced across the space
- ☒ Is the rug the right size to anchor the layout





Style rule #1
Less is more

COLOUR AND TONE

A room feels cohesive when the colours aren't competing with each other.

Designers pay close attention to undertones the subtle warmth or coolness that makes pieces work together effortlessly.

CHECKLIST

- ☒ Are the undertones consistent across major pieces
- ☒ Is there a gentle blend of warm + cool elements
- ☒ Are accent colours repeated at least three times
- ☒ Do metals and finishes complement rather than clash
- ☒ Does the palette support the mood you want the room to have



MOOD

(01)

BOARD

MOOD

(02)

BOARD



(01)

PHOTO



(02)

PHOTO

LIGHTING

Lighting sets the mood more than any other design element.

When you layer different light sources, it gives a room dimension and makes it feel warm and lived in from morning to evening.

CHECKLIST

- ☒ Is there a mix of ambient, task and accent lighting
- ☒ Are bulb tones consistent throughout the space
- ☒ Is there at least one standout lighting piece
- ☒ Are lamps or sconces helping to soften the atmosphere
- ☒ Is natural light being enhanced, not blocked



TEXTURE AND DEPTH

Texture brings a room to life. Without it, even the most expensive furniture can fall flat.

Contrast is key! Smooth against texture, matte against sheen, structured against soft.

CHECKLIST

- ☒ Are there at least three textures in the room
- ☒ Is there a balance of smooth + tactile materials
- ☒ Are soft furnishings layered intentionally
- ☒ Do decorative pieces add height and shape
- ☒ Are natural materials incorporated for warmth



STYLING DETAILS

The final layer is what gives a space its character.

This is where styling becomes personal, the pieces you choose tell your story.

CHECKLIST

- ☒ Are surfaces styled with a mix of heights and shapes
- ☒ Do books, greenery or sculptural objects feel intentional
- ☒ Does each piece add something, not clutter
- ☒ Is there a natural rhythm between objects
- ☒ Does the styling reflect your personality and lifestyle



BRING YOUR VISION TO LIFE

If you want your home to feel balanced, thoughtful and beautifully curated, I'd love to help.

A personalised styling session gives you clarity, direction and a designer's touch!

Whether you're refreshing one room or transforming your entire home.

Let's create a space that truly feels like you.

[BOOK YOUR STYLING CONSULTATION](#)

