



THE GILDED CURATOR



7 DESIGNER *Secrets*

THAT MAKE ANY HOME
LOOK MORE EXPENSIVE



*Simple styling techniques used by designers
to create timeless, elevated spaces.*



By Yvonne Tamayo



THE GILDED CURATOR



Welcome



Beautiful homes aren't built from expensive furniture. They're created through thoughtful styling, layering textures, proper scale, and intentional details.

In this guide, I'm sharing seven of my favorite designer secrets that instantly elevate a space without requiring a full renovation.

These are simple, timeless principles I use every day to create homes that feel warm, collected, and effortlessly elegant.

MY HOPE IS THAT THIS GUIDE *inspires you to look at your home with fresh eyes and make small changes that create a big impact.*

Let's create a home you love coming home to.

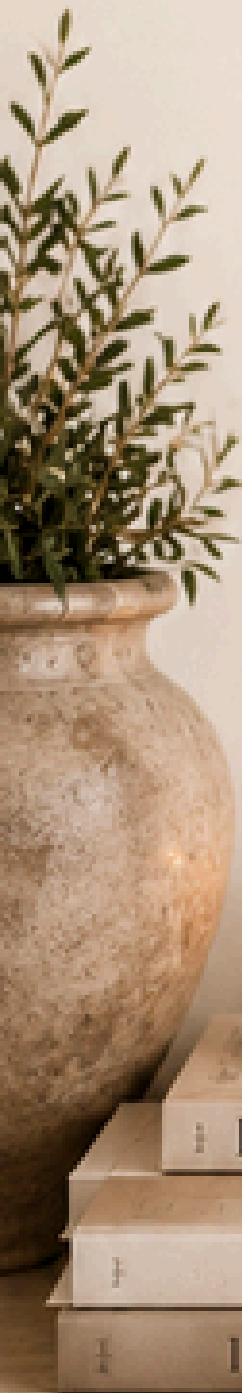


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A beautiful home is not about how much you spend, but how *thoughtfully* you design.





SECRET #1



LAYER TEXTURE

Like a Designer

A room filled with only one texture feels flat. A designer room feels rich because multiple textures work together to create depth, warmth, and sophistication.

HOW TO LAYER TEXTURE:



Mix soft fabrics like linen, cotton, and velvet.



Add natural elements like wood, rattan, and stone.



Incorporate woven pieces such as baskets and jute.



Bring in organic touches with greenery and florals.



Layer pillows, blankets, and bedding in different textures.



REMEMBER

*The goal isn't more color.
The goal is more depth.*



SECRET #2

CREATE A *Spa-Like* EXPERIENCE

Luxury is about how a space makes you feel. Bringing the calm and comfort of a spa into your own home elevates your everyday routines.

HOW TO CREATE A SPA-LIKE FEEL:



Use plush, high-quality towels and replace them regularly.



Add candles or diffusers for a signature scent.



Incorporate natural elements like greenery or fresh flowers.



Keep surfaces clutter-free and intentionally styled.



Use warm, soft lighting to create a relaxing ambiance.

REMEMBER

Small details can turn an ordinary bathroom into your personal retreat.



SECRET #3

STYLE *With* PURPOSE

Beautiful homes are intentional.
Every piece in a room should have
a reason for being there.
When you style with purpose,
your home feels curated, not cluttered.

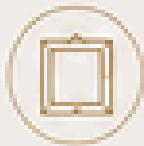
HOW TO STYLE WITH PURPOSE:



Choose pieces that reflect your
personality and lifestyle.



Layer books, art, and objects
to add depth and interest.



Use trays and containers to
corral small items with style.



Display meaningful items
that tell your story.



Edit often—less really is
more when every item counts.

REMEMBER

*When every piece has a purpose,
your home feels effortless and elevated.*

SECRET #4

LAYER *Texture,* NOT COLOR

Many people assume a beautiful home needs more color.

Designers know it needs more texture.

Some of the most luxurious homes use a very limited color palette, yet still feel warm, inviting, and sophisticated. The secret is layering materials that create depth and visual interest.

Think soft linens, woven baskets, marble, natural wood, ceramics, glass, and cozy textiles.

When you focus on texture rather than adding more colors, your home instantly feels more curated and expensive.

HOW TO LAYER TEXTURE:



Mix smooth and rough finishes throughout the room.



Layer pillows in different fabrics and weaves.



Incorporate baskets, trays, and natural materials.



Combine wood, stone, ceramic, and glass accents.



Add soft throws and layered bedding.



Vary finishes such as brass, matte black, and polished metals.

REMEMBER

*The most elegant rooms aren't colorful.
They're layered.*





SECRET #5

CREATE *Visual* BALANCE

Beautiful homes feel balanced. Not because everything matches, but because every room feels visually comfortable and intentional.

Designers create balance by distributing height, scale, texture, and visual weight throughout a space.

When one side of a room feels heavier than another, the room can feel unfinished—even when every item is beautiful on its own.

Balance creates the calm, elevated feeling that makes a home instantly feel more luxurious.

HOW TO CREATE VISUAL BALANCE:

-  Pair taller pieces with lower accessories.
-  Repeat finishes throughout the room.
-  Vary heights when styling surfaces.
-  Use groups of three for decorative displays.
-  Mix larger statement pieces with smaller accents.
-  Step back often and view the room as a whole.

REMEMBER

A balanced room feels effortless. Even when every detail has been thoughtfully curated.



SECRET #6

EDIT *Ruthlessly*



One of the biggest mistakes homeowners make is believing every surface needs to be filled.

Designers do the opposite.

Luxury spaces feel calm because they allow beautiful pieces room to breathe.

Editing doesn't mean removing personality. It means highlighting what matters most.

When everything is important, nothing stands out.

The most elegant homes are often the ones with the fewest distractions.

HOW TO EDIT LIKE A DESIGNER:



Remove one-third of what is currently on display.



Leave intentional empty space on shelves and countertops.



Choose quality over quantity.



Group similar items together.



Keep only décor that serves a purpose or brings joy.



Rotate seasonal pieces instead of displaying everything at once.



REMEMBER

*Luxury isn't having more.
It's having only what deserves to be there.*



SECRET #7

ORGANIZE *Beautifully*



Luxury isn't about having more.
It's about knowing exactly where everything belongs.

The most beautiful homes feel effortless because
they function beautifully behind the scenes.

Closets, pantries, drawers, and storage spaces may
not be visible to guests, but they influence how
your entire home feels.

When your systems are organized, your home feels
calmer, cleaner, and more intentional.

Designers understand that organization isn't
separate from decorating.
It is decorating.

Beautiful storage solutions create the foundation
that allows every room to feel elevated.

HOW TO ORGANIZE LIKE A DESIGNER:

-  Create designated
homes for everything.
-  Use matching containers
whenever possible.
-  Store items by category.
-  Remove duplicates and
unused items regularly.
-  Prioritize function
before aesthetics.
-  Invest in storage solutions
you'll enjoy using.



REMEMBER

*Beautiful homes aren't created by perfection.
They're created by thoughtful systems.*



THE PERFECT HOME OFFICE

Create a Beautiful, Productive & Inspiring Workspace

A thoughtfully designed office should inspire productivity while feeling connected to the overall style of your home.

The most beautiful workspaces balance function and beauty through intentional furniture choices, layered lighting, organized storage, and meaningful décor.

When your workspace feels elevated and inviting, it becomes a place you'll enjoy spending time in every day.

DESIGN ESSENTIALS

-  Comfortable seating
-  Beautiful task lighting
-  Decorative storage solutions
-  Books and meaningful accessories
-  Neutral colors and natural textures
-  A clutter-free desktop

GILDED CURATOR TIP

Your office doesn't need to be large to feel luxurious. Focus on creating a space that feels calm, organized, and reflective of your personal style.



THE ART OF BEAUTIFUL ENTERTAINING

*Create Moments
Worth Gathering For*

The most memorable gatherings happen when thoughtful details come together to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

From al fresco dinners under the string lights to cocktail hour at the home bar, every element contributes to an experience your guests won't forget.

It's not about perfection—it's about creating a space where people feel comfortable, connected, and genuinely cared for.

GILDED CURATOR TIP

*Guests rarely remember perfection.
They remember how your home
made them feel.*

ENTERTAINING ESSENTIALS



Ambient lighting



Comfortable seating



A signature cocktail or mocktail



Fresh greenery or florals



Layered table settings



Beautiful serving pieces



Music and atmosphere



Thoughtful finishing touches

YOUR GILDED HOME CHECKLIST

Before bringing anything into your home, ask yourself these simple questions. Thoughtful decisions create spaces that feel collected, elevated, and timeless.

- ✓ Does it serve a purpose?
- ✓ Does it complement my existing color palette?
- ✓ Does it add warmth, texture, or interest?
- ✓ Is it beautiful and functional?
- ✓ Would I still love it five years from now?
- ✓ Does it contribute to the feeling I want this room to have?
- ✓ Does it work with pieces I already own?
- ✓ Does it feel intentional rather than impulsive?
- ✓ Does it help create a welcoming environment?
- ✓ Does it reflect my personal style?

“

The most beautiful homes aren't filled overnight. They're thoughtfully curated over time, one meaningful choice at a time.

YVONNE TAMAYO
The Gilded Curator





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THANK YOU

Creating a Beautiful Home is a Journey



Beautiful homes aren't created overnight. They're thoughtfully curated through meaningful choices, intentional details, and spaces designed to support the life you love.

I hope these seven designer secrets inspire you to look at your home with fresh eyes and create spaces that feel elevated, welcoming, and uniquely your own.

The most beautiful homes aren't the most expensive.

They're the ones filled with warmth, purpose, and memories. And yours is just beginning.

Yvonne Tamayo

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"A beautiful home isn't about perfection. It's about creating a life that feels beautifully lived."

— YVONNE TAMAYO



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Elevated Living • Beautiful Homes • Effortless Entertaining



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