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MONOCHROMATIC MADE SIMPLE

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A monochromatic decorating scheme can be a bit of an enigma. Employing a one-color palette somehow makes a space look larger without renovating, more organized without tidying, more luxurious without spending an extra dime, and totally timeless in a world of ever-evolving decorating trends. It's truly amazing what a little color can do—or in the case of a monochromatic room, very little color. But contrary to popular conception, narrowing down your color choices to just one and then using it effectively can be a complicated matter, with the risk of a one-dimensional, boring, and lifeless-looking space. There are some important principles to understand before you can ace a monochromatic space. Here's what you need to know.

What draws people into monochromatic color palettes? Indeed, there's nothing quite like a monochromatic interior, but the reasons behind the wide appeal of this look can be subtle and sometimes hard to rationalize. Aside from the advantages, the uniformity and simplicity of a single hue is soothing to the soul, especially when the color in question is neutral—as is often the case in a monochromatic room. The home has harmony among elements and between different rooms, resulting in a seamless flow that invites you inside. When it's done well and with the right surrounding elements, this decorating scheme achieves a cocooning effect that many of my clients strive for as the chief goal of their redesign efforts.







YOUR ONE AND ONLY: CHOOSING AND COMMITTING TO A COLOR

As part of a home's broader aesthetic, color is perhaps the most basic element, so choosing a color palette is the logical place to start the decorating process. You may be wondering, "what do you mean by 'color' in a monochromatic room?" And that's where many are mistaken.

When planning a monochromatic space, it's important to understand what monochromatic is and what it isn't. It's not a single color in a single hue, splashed as far as the eye can see. Rather, this look is all about using one color in its various forms, layers, patterns, and textures to create dimension, much like you would see in a traditional, multi-color scheme.

In any space, particularly in a monochromatic environment, color's effect is all-encompassing, amplifying its influence on your surroundings. Research shows that colors evoke emotion, affect mood, and even manifest in our bodies

through increased appetite or changes in energy level. When choosing a single color, its impact should be a key consideration.

While neutrals are a common choice in monochromatic interior design, they're not the only option. One can create a cozy or dramatic effect with a dark color or a vibrant vibe with a brighter color. Even so, neutral colors come in a wide range of tints, shades, and tones. Color decisions can be especially impactful when they change the feel of an entire room.

Whatever your color choice, make sure it's one you love because once you decide to go monochromatic there's no going back. The effectiveness of this aesthetic depends on your commitment to the color. So, if you're going to do it, be prepared to go "all in."

HOW TO USE YOUR CHOSEN HUE

We've already talked about commitment to your color, which you'll use everywhere from walls and floors to furniture, upholstery, and window treatments. It's important to use your color in its various iterations—and let me stress *various*. When you're limited to a single color, be mindful that you must create visual interest in other ways. In a monochromatic space, variety can come in the form of lighter and darker shades of a single hue. It also comes in a range of different textures and finishes, from matte or glossy to smooth or rough. By using different materials and bringing some patterns into play, you can mix and match for visual appeal. Juxtaposing these opposing elements creates contrast and greater visual interest. These contrasts naturally enhance each material's unique characteristics and cause them to stand out more than they would on their own.



ADD SOME PUNCTUATION

Like the principle of contrasting textures, your palette needs something to make it “pop.” Black, white, and metallics aren’t colors—if we’re getting technical—so feel free to incorporate these into your monochromatic scheme. Layering in some black draws the eye to key focal points and areas you wish to highlight. White, on the other hand, brings brightness and air to a room. And metallics are neutrals in their own right and can lend a little sparkle and detail. Just be sure to use these sparingly so you don’t dilute the broader goal of this styling strategy.