Hugs & Kiddos

Kim's 8 Pillars of Room Design

There are many elements that all come together to create a visually attractive and functional room, but it's hard to know where to start. Use my 8 Pillars as a foundation and checklist for planning, shopping, and installing your dream room!

1 ANCHOR

- Choose a piece of furniture to "anchor" the room – the dominant feature.
- Area rug to "anchor" the conversation space.
- Groupings to "anchor" furniture and accessories together.

2 BREATHING SPACE

- Give eyes visual "room to breathe."
- Use open spaces to guide eyes through the room.
- Use art or objects to visually pinpoint areas in the room.

3 COLOR

- Use color to set the mood of the room.
- Check wall color in different lighting.
- Pick 1 dominate color and 2 supporting colors: 60% - 30% - 10%.
- Color wheel: analogous, complimentary, or monochromatic combinations.

4 FUNCTION

- A room's purpose, traffic flow, and lighting determine furniture placement.
- Understand a room's purpose and use for daily living.
- What's the traffic flow? Do you need easy access to other rooms?

5 GROUPINGS

- Group furniture and accessories to create visual cohesion.
- Use odd numbers of 3 and 5.
- Use variety of heights in a grouping: short, medium, tall.

6 LAYERS

- Layers add visual depth, texture, and interest.
- Layer in monochromatic tones or coordinating colors: 60% - 30% - 10%.
- Layer fabrics in scale: large, medium, small prints.

7 LIGHT

- Evaluate a room's natural lighting to determine need for artificial light.
- Consider various artificial light sources – ceiling, wall, table, floor.
- Artificial lighting for things like reading, makeup, cooking.

8 TEXTURES

- Create texture with a 2D/3D tactile feel or 1D faux image.
- Textures add interest in a monochromatic color scheme.
- Textures can add visual warmth and softness, or create a clean, modern look.
- Textures can be used on ceilings, walls, floors, rugs, and fabrics.