



Homes-Extra

# Decor in a man's world

It is often thought interior design is the domain of a woman. The truth is designing for men is a very different experience, where decorating can be both stylish and fun.

This design is for a new brand of man, one who is done with collegial hand-me-downs, who wants a home that is date-friendly, but doesn't want to change his style for a woman.

So, we asked the experts: **What are some elements that go into designing for a man?**

"The man who is looking for a designer is usually one who is recently single and finally getting the home they've always wanted, or a professional whose outdated cheap furniture no longer reflects who they are," says local designer Adene Lucas from Accents on Design.

"They want their home to be elegant, reflecting on where they are in life and their success — to show that they've arrived. What they don't



Ask the Experts

want is a man cave."

Comfort will trump all in a man's home.

"Men are not prepared to sacrifice comfort and functionality for aesthetic," says Michelle Lavoie, designer and owner of A Man's Home. "The challenge is to find interesting pieces that are attractive and work well."

One of the best ways to design for men is to follow the KISS principle (Keep It Simple Stupid.) For men, it's all about quality.

"Men are more committed when

purchasing furniture," Lucas says.

"They are fine with a \$5,000 leather sofa because they want the quality. They stay away from vinyl or faux anything — they want the quality, sturdy, well-made items."

Lavoie often finds that men designing their own home are relocating or getting a fresh start and aren't bringing a lot of stuff with them, so she looks to their clothing for their style.

"If a man wears tailored dark denim with polished shoes, they will tend to like furniture that is more tailored, maybe with some piping, beautiful Italian leathers and dark rich tones," she says.

"Those men in distressed jeans and bomber jacket, they're looking for that distressed, relaxed feel."

She also looks to his ties to determine accent pieces.

"Do they like geometric, swirly or organic?" she says. "Shirts tell all



PHOTO COURTESY CAT HACKMAN

Men aren't prepared to sacrifice comfort for style, says designer Michelle Lavoie. She has the man try out the feel of all the furniture for himself.

about colour preference. Looking at the T-shirts and ball caps worn can give a great colour scheme."

Designers see a lot of natural elements that go into a man's home, like metals, leathers and solid woods. Nothing dainty need apply and everything should be low maintenance, to go with that sense of functionality.

"When trying out furniture, I really encourage men not just to sit on chairs and sofas, but to lie in them the way you use them, put your feet

up," Lavoie says.

"Ensure that the chairs are wide enough for the shoulder width and that the arm height works for where they like to place their hands."

Using this combination of comfort, function, quality and design derived from personal taste, a man's home sounds like a haven of style.

Women should take note.

If you have a question for Ask the Experts, e-mail Lauren Barr at [lauren.barr@sunmedia.ca](mailto:lauren.barr@sunmedia.ca)

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