



PHOTO: MIKE KRIVIT. The ESSENCE CHAIR and the MELODY OTTOMANS from the HARMONY COLLECTION of THOMASVILLE. "It's so you!"

6 TIPS TO ADD LUXE RIGHT NOW

by Sarah Tieck

LUXURY MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT

people: It is the cup that fits perfectly in hand while sipping steamy chamomile. It is the one-of-a-kind painting discovered in a gallery on a getaway to Carmel-by-the-Sea. It is the ergonomic chair that was made for an afternoon of reading. It is the designer velvet jacket paired with those favorite faded jeans.

Though defined by the individual, at its core, a luxe touch is about enhancing each day by making a space feel truly like home. "Elegance is kind of an attitude," explains Billy Beson, CEO of Beson-Kading Interior Design Group. "You've got to be comfortable no matter what, and nobody should have to take their shoes off in your house."

BACK ROW Bruce Kading and William Beson of the Beson-Kading Interior Design Group; David Heide of David Heide Design Studio.
FRONT ROW Renee LeJeune Hallberg of Beson-Kading Interior Design Group; Lola Watson of Lola Watson Interior Design; Maureen Haggerty of David Heide Design Studio.

Faux? Finished.

Spend thoughtfully, think toward the future, and choose wisely, says designer David Heide of David Heide Design Studio. Think of things in less of a disposable way and more of a permanent way. "To me it's about searching for the integrity piece of whatever it is you do," Heide says. Choose a pair of silk pillows, instead of piling the couch full of faux satin and fake glitz. Buy an original oil painting, instead of its reproduction or print. "Buy one really good one," Heide says. "Invest in the real thing. Invest in luxurious, true materials."

Treasure the Touch

One of the secrets of delicious living is having pillows and furnishings covered with high-quality fabrics and luscious trims, says Bruce Kading, president of Beson-Kading Interior Design Group. "To me, this just brings a lot of softness to the room."

Make It Meaningful

Choose pieces that have meaning to you and that embody something about your life, says Lola Watson, principal of Lola Watson

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Interior Design. One of her favorites is a hand-blown glass vase she brought back from Italy. Watson remembers meeting the family of glassblowers and spending a day witnessing their craft. Now, every time she looks at that vase, she remembers that special trip. It is not about the pursuit of things, she says. It is about honoring what things signify. “It’s really paying attention to your surroundings,” Watson says. “They should be enhancing your life.”

Shine a Light

Letting light in adds depth and mystery to a space. A piece of sparkling crystal can make the space dance with sunny colors and moonlit shadows. “It adds something to the room without really adding something to the room,” says Beson. Mirrors are

another way to reflect light into a room, adding highlights, lowlights, depth, and layers into a space. “There’s nothing prettier than candles and flowers reflected in a mirror.”

Simplicity is Luxurious, Too

Keep it simple, says Maureen Haggerty of David Heide Design Studio. Luxe accessories add important texture and polish, but overloading the sofa with pillows leaves no room for sitting, and piling the coffee table with picture frames and enameled boxes leaves nowhere to set the coffee. “Be mindful of what you place in rooms,” says Haggerty. “I try to create luxury with simplicity.”

Look Past the Surface

Sometimes what really matters is what is invisible to the eye. Stuff chairs and couches with super-soft down filling instead of so-so polyester, says Renée Lejeune Hallberg, interior designer at Beson-Kading Interior Design Group. “It’s just softer, it hugs your back more.”

Relish Rituals

Watson loves climbing into a freshly made bed with ironed sheets—the warmth

of the iron creates a special finish that makes the fabric feel like silk. And, for her, elegant, luxurious living means taking the time for this ritual and others like it. Doing so allows her to experience special things, to enhance her everyday life, and to spend time enjoying the beautiful, comfortable space she’s made for herself. “There’s so many ways you can bring luxury,” Watson says. “It’s really paying attention—it’s really noticing details.” ■

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