

Optimising your home improvements. Interior Design. Practical tips for a fresh look. by Emma Sims-Hilditch of Sims Hilditch

Optimising your home's interior isn't just a case of increasing your budget. You can still create stylish, comfortable, and practical living spaces, simply by focusing on small wins, strategic updates, and a creative approach.

1. Start with a clean slate

Before diving into decorating, take time to declutter. An organised, tidy space instantly feels more open and inviting. Identify what you truly need or love, and then donate, recycle, or sell items that no longer serve a purpose. This will improve the visual appeal of your space, whilst reducing stress and giving you a sense of control over your environment.



2. Paint to transform

A fresh coat of paint is one of the most cost-effective ways to dramatically breathe new life into any room – the key is to select colours that complement your existing furniture and décor.

Neutral shades such as warm whites, or soft beiges will make the space feel larger. If you have a dark, north-facing room, be adventurous – embrace the lack of light with a strong, atmospheric colour. 'Clove' from Neptune is a rich plum colour, perfect for mixing with earthy tones, dark greens and browns. Their Burnt Sienna adds personality and warmth to cosy spaces.

3. Repurpose or up-cycle for your very own look

A coat of paint on wooden chairs, a new set of cushions on a tired sofa, new knobs and handles can all make a huge difference. If you're handy, you could even re-upholster a chair or bench.

So, scour second-hand furniture stores, auction-houses and online market-places. Brown, antique furniture may not be 'on trend' right now, but it has such a timeless appeal and is usually beautifully made with high-quality materials. Cabinets, for example, can be picked up for a fraction of the cost of a new piece. Include at least one antique piece in a room for a feeling of authenticity.

4. Update with accessories and textiles

Swapping out accessories is a simple but effective way to revitalise your home. Introduce colour and texture through scatter cushions, blankets and rugs.

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A stylish rug can ground a space and define different areas within an open-plan room. Making a loose cover for a sofa is a great way to change the look rather than going to the expense of re-upholstering or replacing.

Search out fabric houses who offer end-of-line stock so you can change your curtain treatments. Consider using antique textiles. Add a pretty trim down the leading edge. Decorative vases, trays, or plants add a personal touch.

5. Enhance ambience

Lighting dramatically affects the mood of your space. Try updating your lighting fixtures instead of replacing them entirely. Swapping out old lampshades or even changing the light bulbs can really add to the atmosphere. Avoid cold, white lights, and don't go above 2700 kelvin bulbs for your downlights. Keeping windows clean, removing heavy drapes, or adding mirrors will always help to maximise the effect of natural light.

6. Go with the flow

One of the easiest ways to optimise your interior is to rethink the layout. Sometimes, a room feels cramped or disorganised because furniture is arranged poorly – simply rearranging your furniture to improve 'traffic flow' can make a space feel bigger. For small rooms, multi-functional furniture, such as an ottoman with hidden storage or a sofa bed, will create some extra space.

7. Focus on the details

Small details can make a big impact. Update hardware such as door handles, light switches, and tap fixtures. These changes cost next to nothing, but can bring a fresh, modern look. Add a few carefully selected pieces of artwork or family photos to personalise your space and bring it to life.

Conclusion

Refreshing your home's interior doesn't have to be a hefty investment. By focusing on simple updates, smart organisation, and affordable accessories, you can create a beautiful, functional space that fits your personal style. With a little creativity and planning, you can enjoy a refreshed home that feels as good as new.



Thanks. Emma Sims-Hilditch, Creative Founder, Sims Hilditch.
For more information, head to their [website here](#).