


**NEW HOMES & CONDOS**


A retro table and sideboard made of gorgeous teak wood is freshened up with a set of clean white plastic retro-inspired chairs.



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# Mixing the old with the new



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## ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Something old and something new — in design, mixing the two together can actually give a room quite a powerful flair of interest and create the perfect eclectic blend and mixture of styles.

When working with our clients, I always love walking into their homes for the first time and finding interesting and unique pieces that may have been passed down from previous generations and are “must” stays within the design scheme.

How do you make a retro piece work? The secret is to strike a balance in it all. I love mixing unique design pieces surrounded by modern elements.

In this space, we worked with our client’s large number of mid-century modern furniture pieces and tried to blend them into a freshly renovated modern environment.

We used our client’s retro table and sideboard that was made of a gorgeous teak wood and freshened it up with a set of clean white

plastic retro inspired chairs. In the context of a modernized white yet classic kitchen, it is a great way to blend two styles into one.

In the bedroom, we added a big linen headboard to a pair of very low profile, small-scale end tables. The contrast is well balanced.

The design is not polished nor perfect but instead, it is casual meets a little quirky. It is comfortable and inviting.

The blend of traditional floral patterns on a folded quilt against a geometric white and grey comforter adds yet another layer of contrasting elements.

Here are a few ways you can incorporate antique pieces into a space and give it a modern spin:

1. Upholstery. Probably the best, easiest and most impactful way to turn an old piece into a new one is to change the fabric of a vintage chair or sofa and then you get the perfect blend of old and new.

2. Paint or stain? The good thing about antique furni-

ture is that it is usually much better quality and made much stronger than anything made now days. You can take any old dresser or sideboard, armoire or side table, give it a good sand, painted with a more modern neutral colour such as whites, greys, creams and it will look brand new. If the wood and grain and shape of the piece is in good condition, you can also stain it

in a natural, dark brown, black or grey colour.

3. Change the knobs. Simple as that sounds, it can make a big difference. An old worn down brass or wood knob on a nice wooden dresser can be changed for beautiful shiny chrome, or silver, crystal knobs and add much interest to the piece.

4. Rugs. Antique rugs typically tend to be darker, with

deep rich colours of reds, blues and busy patterns. Although not of a neutral, more modern style, they can actually look phenomenal as the focal point of a cozy living room even if the rest of the items are all modern.

Instead of dreading having to work with classic pieces, embrace its many unique attributes, its character and the unique

authenticity it can bring to your space. But most of all, find a way to showcase these pieces as the highlight of your design.

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Modern neutral colours such as whites, greys and creams provide a brand, new look but with a vintage flair.