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*The Celebrations Issue*

# MAKING SPACE FOR THE NEW YEAR

These simple yet creative décor tips shared by noted interior designers can transform your personal spaces into inviting retreats with just a few, simple steps. So, swap those elaborate renovation projects with these nifty ideas straight from the pros!

By SHRADDHA CHOWDHURY

As we count down to the new year, we inevitably think about the changes we'd like to bring in our lives, whether through a healthier lifestyle, ticking things off our bucket lists, or goals we're determined to achieve. Among the top contenders on these to-do lists is often the desire to upgrade our homes with fresh decorative touches. Read on to discover eight fail-safe steps with remarkable transformative powers, without making things too complicated, to give your home the makeover you desire for a brand-new start.



## GET CREATIVE WITH COLOUR PALETTES

Adding a pop of hues to a contrasting wall or opting for layers—wherein a room's walls gradually transition from lighter to darker hues—is as easy as it gets to enhance the aesthetics of a space. "A bold palette can also be introduced, although it's essential to strike a balance. These vibrant shades require the grounding influence of materials: like a metal's rustic textures, the warmth of wood, or the calming essence of natural greens," advises Apoorva Shroff of Lyth Design.

Dipping into her knowledge of colour therapy, Kuntal Vyas Aggarwal of Resaiki Interiors recommends warmer colours for winter, the season that invites joint pain, inflammation, and lethargy, besides a dip in mercury. "Hues like red and maroon not only make your space cosier but can also positively impact your well-being," she explains.

TOP IMAGE: Pixel-Shot / Shutterstock; Other images courtesy of respective interior designers and firms

## LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Natural or installed, the right kind of lighting can make all the difference in the look and vibe of a place. "A beautiful chandelier, for instance, can serve as the focal point of your space, and at the same time, radiate sophisticated luxury," says Aparna Kaushik of Aparna Kaushik Design Group.

Ajay Arya of A Square Designs, suggests opting for avant-garde lighting fixtures "to add a touch of artistic flair to a room and infuse a new look."



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**PERSONALISATION IS POWER**

Personal touches transform a house into a home. They infuse an individual's identity into the walls and narrate the stories of their experiences. "Feature your photographs as a gallery wall, or arrange a group of pictures on a corner table in your living space," says Temple Town's Meera Pyarelal.

Kuntal Aggarwal highlights that the end of the year is a great time to update any memories from the current year. "Also incorporate home-made crafts and meaningful curios that reflect your unique style and story," she adds.

**CONCEALING IS KEY**

Visible wires and tangled cords are a pet peeve for most homeowners. Hacks to hide them include binding them using cable tubes or ties, installing cable plates, hooking them to the back of furniture, fitting and painting cable raceways to conceal them further, and purchasing small pieces of furniture designed solely for this purpose.

"You can also invest in wireless electrical solutions that connect via Wi-Fi, which will eliminate the need for cords," suggests Rashi Bothra of Azure Interiors.



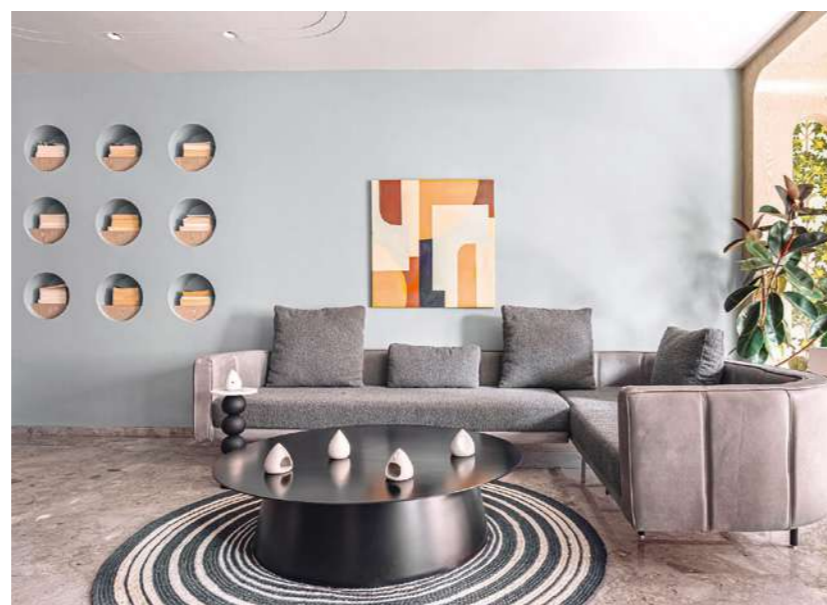
TOP RIGHT IMAGE: courtoisie; Other images courtesy of respective interior designers and firms

**PLAY AROUND WITH DÉCOR ELEMENTS**

Classy cushions, rugs, and versatile, easily movable items like nesting tables, vases, and even books can effortlessly upgrade a room's aesthetics. "Use hardcover coffee-table books aligned horizontally; place a small potted planter on top. Book titles on the side can be font-, colour- or topic-coordinated when stacked," says Pooja Bihani of Spaces and Design.

"Wallpapers are a quicker alternative to wooden panelling, and wooden partitions are an artful choice," adds Rashi Bothra. Placing a mirror strategically can brighten a room and create the illusion of spaciousness. And artwork, while refreshing the room's interiors, offers the versatility to be easily replaced for a quick change.

"Choose statement-making pieces that reflect your personality, and consider customising and thematising them for each room," suggests Monika Choudhary of Dubai-based ZNera Space.



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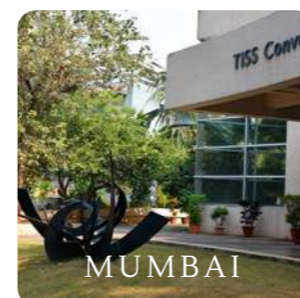
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**THE BIOPHILIC DESIGN GENE**

Indoor plants hold the power to take a room from chic to refined, and blooming plants such as brassia and fiddle-leaf figs raise the aesthetics of the space. "Place them by a bedroom window, or clustered in a living-room corner. Plants create a harmonised theme that enhances visual appeal," says Apoorva Shroff. However, since winter isn't the most suitable time to introduce too many greens indoors, Kuntal Aggarwal recommends getting evergreen plants like Aglaonema, variegated money plants, song of India, ficus, jade, philodendron, and fittonia to add a verdant vibe to your space.



**FRESH FURNISHINGS AND FURNITURE**

If the space permits, moving your furniture around could be the first and easiest way to give your place a fresh look. Kuntal Aggarwal agrees: "Consider rearranging your furniture or swapping old pieces for new ones. Add a simple coffee table or a chair to create a cosy corner near the window." The designer also suggests creating two sets of upholstery to cater to changing seasons.

Rahul Kapoor of Understorey encourages the use of large rugs to instantly elevate the ambience of a room, injecting it with warmth, character, and vibrancy.



**A KITCHEN AND BATH FACELIFT**

Tushant Bansal of Tushant Bansal Design Studio has a clear vision on ways to give your bath area a new look: "Make niches in the wall rather than installing individual racks. Use framed glass partitions and a runner in the dry area for added warmth. Keep the countertop organised; I prefer under-counter sinks. Avoid patterns as they can make the room look smaller. Install a full-length mirror and wall lights to add design elements to the space." For the kitchen, Bansal advises creating a small pantry (if space permits), dedicating a tilted drawer base to store spices, breaking the monotony of solid block surfaces with some glass cabinets, and using an interesting backsplash after identifying the focal point of the kitchen—this could be a marble pattern or even a glazed hand-made tile.



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