

pillow TALK



The chocolate brown and aqua scheme is so in, guests will think they're at a hotel! Photo: News Canada.



Geometric colours (neutral with one bold such as red) make a design statement. Photo: Contemporary Home.

CUSHION CLEANING TIPS:

- If your cushions will get stained a lot, buy ones with zippers on one edge so you can clean them. Read the "care instructions" before you buy. If your cushions need cleaning often, those that require dry cleaning will not work for you. Many can be cleaned in a gentle cycle (turned inside out and left to air dry).
- Most people treat their cushions as a trendy accessory, meaning you may keep them for a year or two and then recycle them. Inexpensive cushions will not have zippers in them so clean them by regular vacuuming, just as you would your sofa. When you're really done with them... off to the Sally Ann!

Have fun when selecting your new cushions each season. And treat yourself to just one that you think is outrageous!



with Dana J. Smithers, CRDA

Cushions, pillows, rolls... call them what you will. I'd like to show you how to unify the look of your home with these small but important decorating items.

Now that fall is fast approaching we will be spending more time indoors. We like to do more "nesting" in the fall and winter and cushions play a big role. They are one of the accessory items that complete the look of any home.

While reading the latest decorating and design magazines it's hard not to notice the use of cushions in every decorating style. If you prefer a **modern** style in your home then you want to select cushions in geometric patterns and the most popular trend in colours this year for accessory items is black, white and red.

Condo living lends itself beautifully to clean lines in furnishings and **geometrics** in cushions and other accessories. The textures for modern looks are leather, microfibres, shag-like fabrics and silky metallic.

When decorating your bedroom this year take a look at the gorgeous aqua and brown colours that we are seeing everywhere. In bedrooms and living rooms, go for that elegant luxurious **five-star**

hotel look. You want to layer your cushions so that you have a back row that is the tallest, a middle row that sits just below and a front row with smaller cushions still.

If you like an **ethnic** look you will find cushions in every colour palette you like. Ethnic cushions come in all sorts of textures and many are hand made. An ethnic cushion adds interest and colour to any family room.

I like to use a **mix of textures** such as chenilles and silks. Paisley prints and damask patterns are favourites in this colour palette. Fabric headboards are a big winner this fall again and all of the fabric choices should work together to unify the look.

Remember, when mixing your décor with bold colours and patterns also choose some solid colours in your palette to "ground" the more vibrant colours. Your fabric choices will usually be of natural fibres and lend themselves to giving an earthy feel to the home.

Dana J. Smithers is a Lower Mainland interior redeigner and home staging instructor. Check out her site at www.sunonmybackredesigns.com.