

Five tips for designing your deck

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installation information to prevent voiding the manufacturing warranty. Read all instructions carefully and use manufacturers' toll-free customer service lines and websites for all technical support. When choosing a contractor make sure you see previous projects and speak to references prior to

employing their services. Make sure the contractor is experienced with the product you choose, or similar products, to ensure they will be capable of completing the project to your satisfaction.

- **Expectations** – Contractors and retailers must set the right expectations of the material in service. After the product has been installed

properly, what can you expect for years to come? Decks are built out in the elements. All exterior products are subject to sun, wind, rain and snow, along with regular use. The sun's UV rays will discolor any surface.

Building professionals and retailers cannot always provide all the answers. Always

search the Internet and visit the manufacturer's Web sites for more information. Design your deck to meet your needs and the needs of all the members of your family. After all, a great outdoor living space adds another room to your home, where memories last for a lifetime. For more information, visit www.nexwood.com.

Welcome to New Old World: Modern design trends update traditional style

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board for better television viewing, and is substantial enough to comfortably anchor a large room. Simplification Reducing the number of elements in a room makes it more relaxing and draws attention where you want it. If it's hard to let go of possessions, rotate them. Your life isn't static, why should your house be?

- **Set off traditional pieces** by surrounding them with clean-lined or more modern ones. Unify a space with the continuous tone of a solid color area rug, sisal carpeting, or even wall-to-wall. A muted Oriental is updated and always appropriate.

- **Soften a room with fabric.** In lieu of a cocktail table, for example, the oversized Foxburg cocktail ottoman from Gentleman's Quarters gives the eye a place to rest, absorbs sound, and finds multiple practical uses.

- **Whether traditional or more modern,** clean-lined, large-scale accessories are

more restful than multiple smaller ones: large books, plump pillar candles inside hurricanes, or a large lacquered tray atop an ottoman. To unify small items into a larger visual whole, group like pieces together. If you can't resist silver, select pieces with simple lines.

- **Color.** Whatever the style, color immediately changes the look of a room. Update classic looks with one of today's bold, new colors: cool it off with a lettuce green or turn up the heat with pimento red.

- **For a more subdued look,** use a neutral color palette such as warm taupe or camel. Update it with crisp black or silver accents: lampshades, pillows, trunks, curtains, or a mirror frame.

- **For unity, repeat the wall color in upholstery.** Lightening Up The wealth of architectural elements can lend a masculine feel to classic design. Here are some ways to create a softer feel:

- **Incorporate lighter, softer colors,** such as the new light and icy blues.

- **Include soft, floral patterned fabrics or an orchid in a clean-lined pot.**

- **Set off the lines of an intricately styled bed with simple, solid-colored linens.**

- **Avoid fussy details that compete for attention and create a busy rather than relaxed look.** * Relax a dining table with cane back chairs.

- **Select softer, gentler artwork.** Surprisingly, tropical motifs work well with traditional design (envison the palm-like tops of Corinthian columns). Layering Whether for a bed, tabletop, or room, layering creates visual depth and a lived-in feel.

- **Add and delete elements in your different layers** – from floor covering to furnishings to accessories to lighting – until you have an inviting sense of balance and dimension. Function Finally, no update would be complete without adding the conveniences that make life easier.

Mix in new furnishings for added function: stone tops that resist moisture, drawer liners to prevent silver from tarnishing, storage drawers and shelves, and of course, fully outfitted entertainment centers. Teaming classical design with today's pared down aesthetics allows you to imbue your love of tradition with a fresh spirit. Your space becomes more livable, more you. Welcome to the New Old World. To learn more about enhancing your home with Gentleman's Quarters from Palmer Home and other stylish traditional

Oriental rugs are luxurious and affordable

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

An Oriental rug instantly transforms any space, whether it's a living room, a home office or a foyer. Luxurious and colorful, these rugs have a timeless quality that enhances any decorating scheme. But if you think something so elegant is out of reach, think again.

"A true Oriental or Persian rug is now affordable," says Nizzi Renaud of Rugman.com, the leading online source for authentic Oriental rugs. With an ever-increasing selection, both in price and design, there is something to fit every need and budget. A rug is one of the easiest ways to update a room. Unlike painting the walls or reupholstering the furniture, there is no work involved.

A rug doesn't need to be installed, and it can even be placed over existing carpeting. It offers a quick change that makes a big impact. With so much to choose from, selecting an Oriental rug can be intimidating.

The most important factor to consider is whether or not you like it," says Renaud, who adds that there are many resources to assist buyers. One is the free Buyers Guide available on the Rugman.com site, which includes information on how to tell whether a rug is handmade, historical rug styles and step-by-step guidance on how to select a rug. The following are some tips from the experts at Rugman.com on how to decorate with an Oriental rug:

- **Color** – To blend an Oriental rug into an existing décor, select a rug that has a color that echoes another color in the room, such as that of the walls or sofa. Tying the colors together will allow even a traditional rug style to work well with a contemporary room.

Rug weavers have started to use more modern colors in their designs to suit changing global tastes, so it's getting easier to find an Oriental rug in the right colors.

- **Design** – The more opulently decorated a room, the more a curvilinear design will enhance the effect. Rugs with geometric details are a good choice for more rustic or modern interiors, and they will also "de-fuss" a traditional interior. An all-over repeating motif will look the same from all angles, which allows for flexible placement in a room.

- **If a rug has a center medallion,** this is the design's focus. Don't choose this kind of rug for a dining room or living room area where the medallion will be hidden; choose an all-over design for these areas.

- **Size** – There is a range of sizes available, and you can choose whether or not you want your furniture on or off the rug. Placing furniture back from the rug puts the rug center stage. A more luxurious, traditional look is for all furniture to be placed on the rug. For luxury as well as comfort, rugs for dining areas should be about four feet wider than the table, so that there is room to slide the chairs back without moving them off the rug.

For more helpful hints, visit www.rugman.com. Visitors can browse the inventory, which ranges from 10,000 to 14,000 antique, semi-antique and new Oriental rugs. The site also includes a "RugWizard" which sorts the inventory to find the right rug.

Evolved from a 50-year-old, third-generation family rug import business, Rugman.com offers authentic Oriental rugs at or below wholesale cost by working directly with weavers and merchants in the traditional rug making centers. Shipping is free in the U.S. and Canada, and there is a 30-day return policy.

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