



# Curating a Home That Represents You

A Thoughtful Guide to Creating Spaces That Feel Like You

**BLISS ABODE**



# Welcome

At Bliss Abode, we believe your home should feel layered, intentional, and lived-in—never stiff or over styled. Design isn't about perfection; it's about creating spaces that support your everyday life while still feeling beautiful.

This guide is meant to help you elevate your home through thoughtful choices—small shifts that make a big impact. Whether you're refreshing one room or rethinking your entire home, these principles will help you design with confidence.

*“Your home should feel like a deep exhale at the end of the day.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode

# Chapter One

## Start with a Feeling



Before choosing colors, furniture, or decor, start by defining how you want your home to feel. This step is often overlooked, but it's the foundation of a well-designed space.

Instead of asking, What should I buy? ask:

- How do I want to feel when I walk into this room?
- How do I want this space to support my everyday life?
- Who uses this room, and how?

*“When you design for a feeling first, the rest of the choices fall into place.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode



For example, a living room used for family movie nights and hosting friends should feel warm, comfortable, and inviting—prioritizing seating, softness, and flow. A bedroom, on the other hand, should feel calm and uncluttered, encouraging rest rather than stimulation.

When you design around a feeling, your decisions become clearer. Fabrics feel softer or more structured. Colors lean lighter or moodier. Furniture becomes about comfort and function, not just appearance.

Try this exercise:

- Choose three words to describe how you want each room to feel (such as cozy, airy, grounded, relaxed, or refined).
- Use those words as a filter for every design choice you make.

If something is beautiful but doesn't support the feeling you're aiming for, it probably doesn't belong in that space.

# Chapter Two

## Elevating with Color



Color sets the tone of a space and influences how a room is experienced. There's no single right approach—some homes thrive on a soft, neutral foundation, while others come alive through painted color. Both can be beautiful when done with intention.

*“Color brings personality into a home. If you love it, that’s what matters most.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode

## A Neutral Foundation with Color Through Accents

A neutral palette creates a timeless, calming base and allows your furnishings and styling to shine.

Warm whites, soft taupes, greiges, and muted beiges work beautifully on walls and larger furniture pieces. To keep a neutral home from feeling flat, layer in color through accents such as:

- Throw pillows and blankets
- Artwork
- Decorative objects
- Area rugs
- Florals and greenery
- Accent chairs

This approach gives you flexibility. Accent colors can change seasonally or as your style evolves, without committing to a full redesign.

For example, a neutral living room can feel completely refreshed by swapping warm rust-toned pillows in the fall or soft blues in the spring.





## Embracing Color Through Paint

It's okay and encouraged to paint your home in color. Color brings personality, emotion, and depth to a space, and when chosen thoughtfully, it can feel just as timeless as a neutral.

Soft blues and greens create a calming atmosphere in bedrooms and bathrooms, while warm clay tones, moody charcoals, or rich navies add drama and character to dining rooms, offices, or powder baths.

If committing to color feels intimidating, start small:

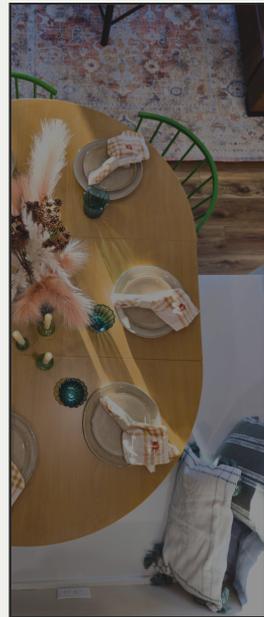
- A painted powder room
- An accent wall
- Interior doors or cabinetry

Paint is one of the most impactful and changeable design decisions you can make.

# Chapter Three

## Furniture That Feels Intentional

Furniture is the foundation of your home's design—it's both functional and visual. Choosing pieces that feel intentional creates a sense of balance, cohesion, and comfort, while haphazardly placed furniture can make a room feel chaotic or incomplete.



*“One great anchor piece will do more for a room than five small ones.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode



## Mix Materials and Finishes

Combining different materials adds character and depth. For example:

- Pair wood tables with upholstered seating
- Mix metal accents with soft textiles
- Combine vintage pieces with clean-lined modern furniture

This contrast creates visual interest and prevents a space from feeling flat or too uniform.

## Scale and Proportion

Pay attention to the size and proportion of each piece. A generously sized sofa anchors a living room, while multiple small chairs may create visual clutter. Large pieces provide a sense of grounding, while smaller pieces should support the main anchor rather than compete with it.

When arranging furniture, leave space for movement and natural flow. A room that is visually pleasing but impractical to navigate loses its sense of comfort.

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### Create Conversation Areas

Arrange seating to encourage interaction. In living rooms, pull chairs and sofas slightly away from walls, and group them around a central coffee table or rug. In dining rooms, ensure chairs and tables have enough space for easy movement while keeping the area intimate and inviting.

### Anchor With Statement Pieces

Each room benefits from at least one anchor piece, a sofa, dining table, bed, or console, that sets the tone. Build around it with complementary furniture that supports both the function and aesthetic of the room.

## A Simple Furniture Styling Example

For example, a living room could be styled like this:

- Anchor the space with a mid-sized neutral sofa
- Add two accent chairs in a different material or finish (like leather or velvet)
- Include a wooden coffee table and a metal side table for contrast
- Layer in a cozy throw on the sofa and a few small decorative objects on the coffee table
- Ensure pathways are clear and furniture feels balanced, not crowded

This approach creates a collected, intentional, and functional space without feeling over-styled.



# Chapter Four

## Styling With Purpose



Styling is what turns a house into a home. It's the layer that makes a space feel finished, personal, and intentional rather than staged or temporary.

Good styling isn't about filling every surface—it's about choosing the right pieces and letting them shine.

*“Sometimes the most elevated move is removing something.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode



## The Rule of Threes

Grouping decor in odd numbers, especially threes, creates a more natural, curated look. For example, style a coffee table with a stack of books, a decorative object, and a small plant or candle.

## Vary Heights and Shapes

When styling shelves, mantels, or consoles, mix tall, medium, and low items to guide the eye. Pair structured shapes with softer or organic ones, such as a round bowl next to stacked books or a sculptural vase.

## Anchor with Books

Books add instant warmth and personality. Use them to anchor vignettes on coffee tables, consoles, or shelves. Stack them horizontally and layer an object on top for a collected feel.



## Mix Old and New

Incorporating something vintage or meaningful instantly elevates a space. This contrast keeps your home from feeling overly styled or straight out of a catalog.

## Use Trays with Intention

Trays help group smaller items and create visual order. They're especially useful on coffee tables, ottomans, nightstands, and bathroom counters.

## Leave Room to Breathe

Not every surface needs decor. Negative space is just as important as what you add; it allows statement pieces to stand out and keeps a room from feeling cluttered.

## Edit Regularly

Styling isn't permanent. As your home evolves, so should your spaces. Remove pieces that no longer serve the room or the feeling you're trying to create.

# Chapter Five

## Texture Makes The Space



Texture is one of the most important and most overlooked elements of a well-designed home. It's what gives a space warmth, depth, and a sense of layering, especially when working with a neutral or limited color palette. Without texture, even the most beautiful rooms can feel flat. With it, a space immediately feels richer and more inviting.

*“Texture is what makes a neutral home feel rich, not boring.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode

## Layering Textures for Depth

Incorporating a mix of textures keeps a room visually interesting. Think about combining:

- Soft fabrics with structured materials
- Smooth finishes with rough or organic ones
- Matte surfaces with subtle shine

For example, a linen sofa layered with a velvet pillow, a chunky knit throw, and a leather accent instantly feels more elevated and intentional.





## Fabrics Matter

Different fabrics bring different moods to a space:

- Linen and cotton feel relaxed and breathable—perfect for everyday living spaces.
- Velvet adds softness, depth, and a touch of luxury without feeling formal when used sparingly.
- Bouclé and wool bring warmth and coziness, especially in colder months.
- Leather adds contrast and patina, grounding a space and balancing softer elements.

Mixing these fabrics throughout pillows, upholstery, and throws creates a layered, collected look.



## Natural and Hard Textures

Texture isn't just about fabric. Incorporate natural and tactile materials such as:

- Woven baskets and rugs
- Ceramic and stone accessories
- Wood tones with visible grain
- Aged or brushed metals

These elements add character and keep a space from feeling too polished.

## Texture as a Substitute for Color

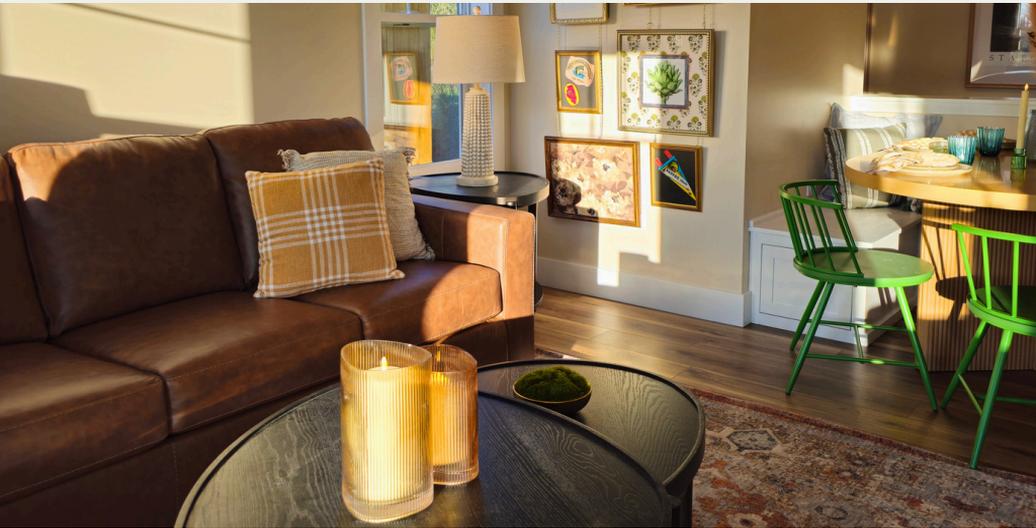
If you prefer a neutral palette, texture becomes even more important. Varying materials and finishes allows a room to feel dynamic without relying on bold color.

## A Simple Texture Styling Example

If your living room feels flat, start with what you already have. For example:

- Keep a neutral sofa as your base
- Add two pillows in different fabrics, such as one linen and one velvet
- Layer a chunky knit or wool throw over the arm of the sofa
- Introduce a leather or wood accent through an ottoman, tray, or side chair
- Finish with a ceramic or stone object on the coffee table

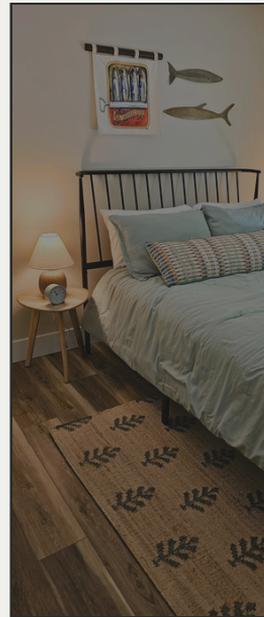
This mix of soft, structured, smooth, and organic textures instantly adds depth without changing your color palette.



# Chapter Six

## Lighting Changes Everything

Lighting has the power to completely transform a room. It affects mood, warmth, and how every color and texture is experienced. Even the most beautifully designed space can fall flat with poor lighting.



*“Lighting sets the mood of a home more than any piece of furniture ever could.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode



## Layer Your Lighting

A well-lit room should never rely on just one light source. Instead, layer lighting throughout the space:

- Ambient lighting provides overall illumination (overhead fixtures or recessed lighting).
- Task lighting supports function (table lamps, floor lamps, reading lights).
- Accent lighting adds atmosphere and highlights details (candles, sconces, picture lights).

This combination creates depth and allows you to adjust the mood throughout the day.

## Choose Warm Light

Warm bulbs instantly make a space feel more inviting. Cooler bulbs can feel harsh and unflattering, especially in living areas and bedrooms. Opt for warm or soft white lighting to create a cozy, welcoming glow.



## Lamps as Design Elements

Lamps aren't just functional, they're decorative. Think of them as jewelry for a room. A sculptural lamp or textured shade can add character, height, and softness to a space.

## The Feeling Lamps Create at Night

In the evening, lighting should shift with your lifestyle. Turning off overhead lights and relying on lamps instantly changes the feeling of a home. It becomes softer, calmer, and more intimate.

Lamp lighting creates pools of warmth rather than one harsh source of light, which makes spaces feel cozy and inviting. This is often what people describe as a home feeling “comfortable” or “relaxed” at night.

## The Importance of Lamps Throughout the Home

Lamps create rhythm as you move through a home. An entry lamp welcomes you in and immediately sets the tone. A living room lamp invites you to sit, slow down, and stay awhile. Bedside lamps naturally signal rest and routine at the end of the day. These moments of light guide how a home is experienced, not just how it looks.

Beyond mood, lamps create balance. They soften corners, fill visual gaps, and prevent harsh contrasts between bright and dark areas. When lighting is only overhead, rooms can feel disconnected from one another. Lamps help visually link spaces, creating a consistent warmth throughout the home, especially in the evening.





Consider incorporating lamps in unexpected but impactful places:

- On a console or sideboard to add height and softness
- In hallways or transitional spaces to avoid dark zones
- On kitchen counters or open shelving for ambient evening light
- In home offices to balance productivity with comfort

Using lamps consistently also changes how you use your home. Evenings become slower and more intentional. You may find yourself gathering more, lingering longer, and feeling more at ease. This is often what people mean when they say a home feels cozy or welcoming. It's rarely about the furniture, and almost always about the lighting.

A well-lit home isn't brighter, it's warmer. Lamps allow you to control the atmosphere, room by room, moment by moment, creating a home that supports how you actually live.

# Chapter Seven

## Final Thoughts



When your home reflects your lifestyle, your story, and what brings you comfort, it will always feel right no matter what's trending.

*“A home is elevated not because of the price of its furniture, but because it reflects who you are and how you live.”*

— Jackie, Bliss Abode

## Final Thoughts

Throughout this guide, we've explored the elements that make a home feel elevated:

**Feeling first:** Let the mood and purpose of each space guide your choices.

**Color:** Whether through a neutral foundation with accents or painted walls, your palette should reflect your personality.

**Furniture:** Choose pieces that feel intentional, layered, and balanced.

**Styling:** Edit, group thoughtfully, and mix old and new to create depth and interest.

**Texture:** Layer fabrics, materials, and surfaces to bring warmth and richness to your rooms.

**Lighting:** Thoughtful lamps, layered lighting, and warm bulbs transform the way a home feels day and night.



Remember, design is a journey, not a checklist. Small, deliberate changes over time can transform your home without requiring a complete overhaul. Take one corner, one wall, or one room at a time, and focus on what brings you joy and comfort.

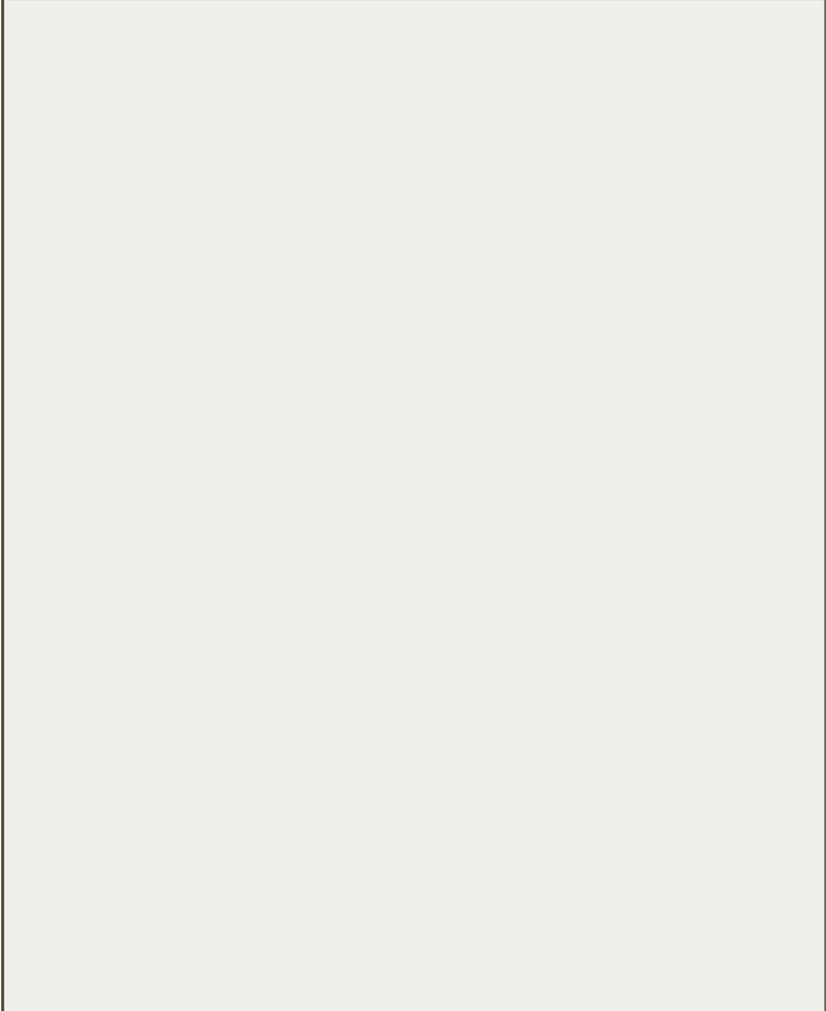
**The most important rule:** your home should tell your story. Incorporate pieces that are meaningful, invest in items that feel right to you, and don't be afraid to trust your instincts.

We believe every home has the potential to be beautiful, personal, and intentional. With thoughtful choices, a bit of layering, and attention to detail, you can create a space that supports your lifestyle and brings joy every day.

Your home is yours—curate it with intention, love it deeply, and let it be the backdrop for the life you want to live.

# *Your Notes & Inspiration*

Use this space to jot down your ideas, inspirations, color palettes, furniture plans, or any thoughts a you curate your home. Let this be your personal guide and creative playground.



# *A Note From the Designer*



Thank you for taking this journey with me. Every home is unique, just like the people who live in it. Remember, an elevated home isn't about perfection or trends—it's about creating a space that reflects you and your life. Layer, edit, and design with intention, and you'll build a home that brings joy every single day.

I hope this guide inspires you to start small, take risks with color and texture, and embrace the process of making your home a place you truly love.

*Jackie  
Bliss Alford*

# *Conclusion*

## Next Steps & Resources

Now that you've explored the principles of creating a home that reflects your lifestyle and personality, it's time to take action. Start with small, intentional changes, and gradually layer in color, texture, furniture, and lighting to curate spaces that truly feel like you.

### Resources & Tips:

- Revisit exercises from each chapter to guide your design choices.
- Keep a notebook or inspiration board to collect ideas, color swatches, and furniture concepts.
- Don't be afraid to experiment with paint, textiles, and styling until it feels right.

Ready to take the next step in curating your home? Bliss Abode offers personalized consultations, home staging, and furnishing services to help bring your vision to life. Start creating your elevated, intentional space today.

### Questions?

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