



A FIRST CHAIR GUIDE

30 design tips to elevate your home.

NOTHING TO BUY. JUST MOVE, EDIT, RESTYLE.

first chair

THE TIPS

the tips.

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- 01 leave negative space.
 - 02 fewer, bigger things.
 - 03 clear every surface.
 - 04 hide the clutter.
 - 05 take a third of the books out.
 - 06 stack some flat.
 - 07 one object per shelf.
 - 08 pull your sofa off the wall.
 - 09 give the room a focal point.
 - 10 vary the heights.
 - 11 leave an even border.
 - 12 build a triangle.
 - 13 leave a landing spot.
 - 14 center at eye level.
 - 15 mind the gap over furniture.
 - 16 go big or go gallery.
 - 17 hang them high and wide.
 - 18 mount the tv at eye level.
 - 19 break up the black box.
 - 20 turn off the overhead.
 - 21 add glow, not glare.
 - 22 bounce the light you have.
 - 23 put a lamp on the counter.
 - 24 drop the pendant low.
 - 25 style it in threes.
 - 26 group it on one tray.
 - 27 bring something living in.
 - 28 mix your pillow sizes.
 - 29 layer the bed properly.
 - 30 repeat a color three times.

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THE EDIT 01 / 30

leave negative space.

Every room needs somewhere to rest.
What you leave out is the design.

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fewer, bigger things.

Clusters of tiny decor read as clutter.
Fewer, bigger pieces feel intentional.

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clear every surface.

Keep the nightstand to a lamp and a book.
Empty space is what feels calm.

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THE EDIT 04 / 30

hide the clutter.

Bottles in baskets, counters clear.
Calm surfaces, calm mind.

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THE EDIT 05 / 30

take a third of the books out.

Full shelves read as storage.

Breathing room is what looks styled.

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THE EDIT

06 / 30

stack some flat.

Alternate vertical rows and flat stacks.
The flat stacks become little pedestals.

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THE EDIT 07 / 30

one object per shelf.

A bowl, a small vase, a framed photo.
Never more than one. Let it breathe.

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pull your sofa off the wall.

Even four inches of air behind it.
A room breathes when the furniture floats.

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give the room a focal point.

Face the sofa toward art or a window.
Every room needs one anchor for the eye.

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vary the heights.

Tall plant, hung art, low table.
The eye needs somewhere to travel.

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leave an even border.

Shift the rug until the floor shows evenly.
Even space frames the room.

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build a triangle.

Tall, medium, low across the top.
Vary the heights for balance.

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leave a landing spot.

Keep room for keys and a tray:
It should work, not just look good.

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center at eye level.

Aim for 57 inches to the middle.
Most people hang art too high.

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THE WALLS

15 / 30

mind the gap over furniture.

Leave 6 to 8 inches above the sofa.

Art should relate to the piece below.

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go big or go gallery.

One large piece, or a tight cluster.
Small lonely frames look lost.

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hang them high and wide.

Mount close to the ceiling, past the frame.
It makes windows look bigger.

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mount the tv at eye level.

Center it on your seated sightline.
A TV too high strains the room.

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THE WALLS 19 / 30

break up the black box.

Art, books, and texture around it.
Soften the hard rectangle.

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THE LIGHT 20 / 30

turn off the overhead.

One cold ceiling bulb flattens everything.
Warm lamps give a room depth.

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add glow, not glare.

Spread the lamps you have through the room.
Three soft sources beat one bright one.

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THE LIGHT

22 / 30

bounce the light you have.

Move a mirror across from the window.
It doubles every ray that comes in.

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put a lamp on the counter.

Recessed cans flatten everything.
Borrow a lamp from another room. Yes, a lamp.

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drop the pendant low.

Hang it about 30 inches above the table.
Low light makes the table the whole room.

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THE STYLING 25 / 30

style it in threes.

A tray, a stack of books, something living.
Odd numbers at different heights.

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group it on one tray.

Loose objects read as mess.
Corral them on one tray, or a plate.

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bring something living in.

Objects alone feel staged.
One branch from outside, or a bowl of lemons.

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THE STYLING 28 / 30

mix your pillow sizes.

Big in back, smaller in front, one lumbar.
Same-size squares flatten the sofa.

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THE STYLING 29 / 30

layer the bed properly.

Sheets, duvet, then a folded throw.
Layers are what look luxe.

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repeat a color three times.

Move it around the room.
Color needs to travel to feel intentional.

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THE NEXT ROOM

now make
it yours.

Snap a photo of your room and get it designed
with real pieces you can shop.

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