

Here are some **Design Principles & Tips** that Janine works with when designing spaces which might provide some design inspiration for homeowners.....

## Designing Spaces: "My Spring Cleaning Toolbelt"

### 1. Identify the uses or Purpose for your Space.

Who uses the Space the Most?

How is it used? Consider the scope of the project!!

This information will allow for a highly functioning space planning if thought through!

### 2. Get Organized and Purge! *It's Spring Cleaning!*

Clear out Space into another room and sort into bins with labels! If you haven't used it in a year... chances are you will not likely use or wear it again.

Remember to always have bins ready to purge unwanted or unnecessary clutter which you may want to take to a local Goodwill or charity!.... or Garage Sale!

Call a friend and make some plans for upcoming weekends to follow through on your Garage Sale endeavour & advertise in your local paper, this way you'll be sure to clear out all your items and make some quick cash to pay for your redesigned space!

### 3. Create a Wish List!.... and Needs List!

Ask yourself "What do I need this space to do or to function as?"

What are your habits or hobbies? What do you do when you come home?

Create a list of desires for your space, maybe you like to read in bed? Perhaps you have a cozy side chair with ottoman you like to curl up in to read? or watch TV?

Things you might want to consider for your comfort are lighting and scale of furniture intended for use in the space!

You may want to add extra nearby task halogen lighting in a lamp or put some pot lights on a dimmer for a more restful atmosphere!

You may want to keep window coverings "lighter" in feel and tone! a Quick "Go To" of mine are Sunshades to control natural light! Works well in day light and privacy at night in almost all spaces as visually they disappear!!

Possibly a lighter or warmer wall colour may work well in your space, this assists in reflecting light more!

Storage in your space is key for keeping your space decluttered! Think about how you use the space and what are the key pieces of furniture that are needed! Adding a multipurpose furniture or built in item works well in most spaces!

#### 4. Inspiration for your space!

You are now clutter free and have a fresh new space with

lots of function.... now for some *Fun!*

By adding Personality or fun memories from your last trip can provide you with some ideas and inspiration for your new space!

Some Ideas: Southern & Tropical, Cozy Ski Chalet in Switzerland, or a European getaway!????

You may have neat souvenirs or can find items for your space that work with your idea such as a printed pillow, interesting chair, lamp or rug! Keep it simple!

This will help to create a more focused colour scheme to show off your inspired trip relic!! Remember Less is More!!

## 5. Colour Design & Materials!

Consider all existing materials, flooring, lighting, art & all patterns you are visually combining!

You may want to consider hardwood as a single colour or tone when choosing you wall colour!

For decorative rugs pull out some dominate colours or take a photo with you when selecting coordinating colours!

Add punches of colour for a little playfulness!

Always remember to balance colour with neutrals, patterns with plain or visually smooth surfaces as each will visually *'live on its own!'*

Too much, too big, too bold can be overwhelming and create visual traffic or clutter, you have worked so hard to Spring Clean, redesign and re-balance your space!

*Less is always more!*