

Your Guide to a Polished Pad: Bachelor Edition



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Introduction

So you've got your own place and outfitted it with all the tech you can afford... for now. You might think you have the perfect bachelor pad. But your mish-mash of Ikea and hand-me-down furniture says otherwise.

Your home should reflect you. Make it a space that you love.

Our physical space has an impact on our moods and behaviours. There is an entire subset of environmental psychology dedicated to how our home and work environments impact us. This science includes things like the colour of our walls and the layout of our rooms. Make your home a place you can relax and recharge.

We're not talking about creating a space with rigid white furniture you're afraid to sit on, or hanging framed inspirational quotes like your ex had on their walls. From a stylish – but comfy – couch to a bar-cart that is sure to impress guests, we created a guide to show you how to pull together a home you'll be dying to show off.

Colour Schemes

A well thought out colour scheme is the starting point of every room. It is how you pull all of your furniture together into a cohesive space that will positively impact how you feel. The simplest way to feel good at home is to use colours that make you feel good. It is easy to default to safe neutrals, but incorporating colours you love throughout the space will really improve your mood. Not sure where to start? We've put together some tips on where to find colour inspiration and turn it into a palette. If you're still lost, you can always pick your favourite palette from our examples below!

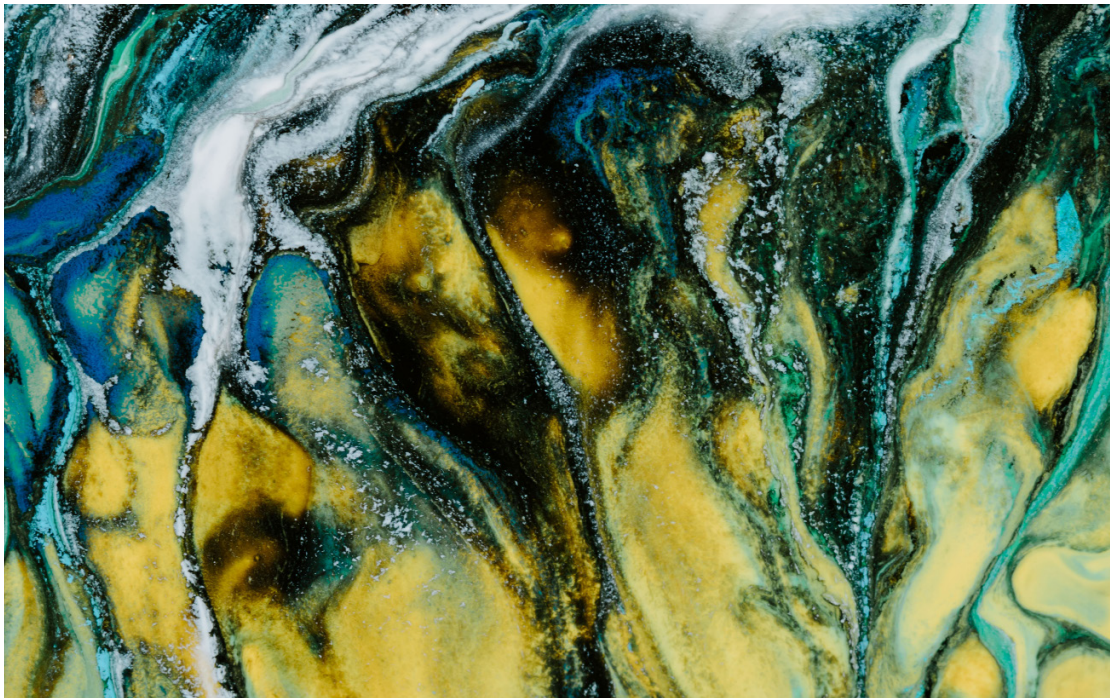


Finding Inspiration

If you're not sure how to begin picking colours, we recommend taking a look around you. The most important thing is to use colours you love. We've put together a list of places you can go for inspiration, with some examples of how to turn them into a palette. If you want to go for bold colours, make sure you balance your palette with some neutrals like grey, black and/or white. If you don't want anything too bright, mix up your palette by combining dark and light hues. The colour schemes below should help get you started. You can even pick your favourite and use it!

Work With What You Have

Work around something you plan to keep. Re-decorating doesn't have to mean starting from nothing. If there's a piece of art or a couch you plan to keep, that can be a great starting point. Choose colours that match or complement the piece(s) you want to keep. You can balance any colour with neutrals.



Pull it Out of Your Closet

Open up your closet. Consider the colour schemes in some of your favourite clothes. You can use your favourite kicks to inspire a room, or the colour combination in your favourite outfit.



Look Around

What catches your eye when you're out and about? Inspiration can hit at any time – from a car speeding by to the interior of a coffee shop. Any colour you see can be turned into a colour palette.





Living Room

Your living room is the most important room in your home. It is everyone's first impression of how you live, and where your guests spend the most time. It is also your space to relax. If there is one room you're going to invest in, it should be this one. You need seating that caters to your social needs, a proper display for accessories and media storage that is discreet and functional.



Seating

While you're setting out to make your space your own, you should be considering who you may be sharing it with. Do you typically have one guest at a time or is your place going to be the new gathering spot for the boys? Seating will depend on the function of your room – as well as the size.

If your number of guests is typically quite small, a single sofa may suffice. But four men conversing across a giant sofa is probably not the most effective layout for your living room. Consider a smaller sofa and a few chairs to create an atmosphere that is conducive to socializing.



You will also need to consider the size of your space. Larger rooms offer quite a bit of flexibility. On the other hand, multiple chairs in addition to your sofa and other furniture will cramp a tight space. Make sure you measure the room before adding furniture and determine a layout that will optimize your space. If you're not confident in planning a layout yourself, enlist a knowledgeable friend or hire an interior design professional.

Finally, think about the material, colour, style and budget when you are looking at sofas and chairs. Genuine leather is durable and easy to wipe off, but costly up-front.



Other fabrics can be cheaper and offer a wider range of colours and patterns but can be more difficult to clean.





Media Storage

We know you likely have your share of tech in your living room – things like your TV, game consoles, Google Home and remotes for lighting and music. The consoles, wires and games spread around your television are not a great aesthetic. We know you want them to be easily accessible – but they should just as easily disappear when you're not using them.



The simple solution? Media storage. There are storage units specifically designed to make your consoles accessible but discreet. They come in a variety of sizes, so we've got you covered whether you've got it all or play all-in-one.

Media storage units have shelves or cabinets with open backs so that items with wires can easily sit in the shelves. Some are open in the front as well, making everything visible. The open options are great if you have minimal items to store around your tv.

If you prefer the option of shutting everything away, opt for media storage that closes. Closing cabinets are especially useful if you have multiple systems or a lot of accessories. The more things you have the harder it is to make them look neat. Some units even let you hide your tv away.

Finding the right storage unit for your needs is easy. A quick search for "multimedia storage" or "media storage" will produce tons of options. Keep in mind the size of the unit in relation to how many items you need it for when you're looking.



Table Spaces

Tabletops are a place you may not consider for decor, but a balanced tabletop is an important part of a great space. You don't want the space on a table to feel too cluttered, but leaving it empty leaves something to be desired.





Tables are mainly used part-time. Coffee tables and side tables mostly serve as a place to put down small items while you're nearby. But a table doesn't need to be left bare when there's no drink or snack sitting on it. These tables can act as surface space that you can use to display items that won't fit in a frame or on a shelf. Consider putting down a couple of books, a chessboard or a classy liquor bottle.



Some hobbies need a full work area. For those, it's all about style and storage. If what you do requires a desk or other workspace, think about what you need and how to keep the open display minimal. Many desks come with built-in storage units, for example. If you're a writer, feel free to keep stylish pens and notebooks (typewriter, laptop...whatever suits your fancy) on display and tuck away the rest. The same rules can apply to any activity. Leave out what you use most (or what looks best) and tuck the rest away.

There are some things you may not even consider a tablespace for – like where to store alcoholic beverages. Of course, you can keep all your liquor in a drawer and leave different barware around the kitchen. But a simple bar-cart will add a touch of sophistication to your place



Source: Pinterest

Displaying Your Interests

Your home should reflect who you are and that means showing off your interests to anyone who visits. Perhaps you have sports paraphernalia around the house. If you are into photography, maybe you have a collection of cameras and lenses. Whether or not you have put thought into your decor, it is more than likely your space already reflects you – you're already halfway to completing this step!

All that's left is to do is to take what you have and display it in a more organized way. Show pride in what you enjoy. Here are three great ways to show off your hobbies and interests in a grown-up manner.

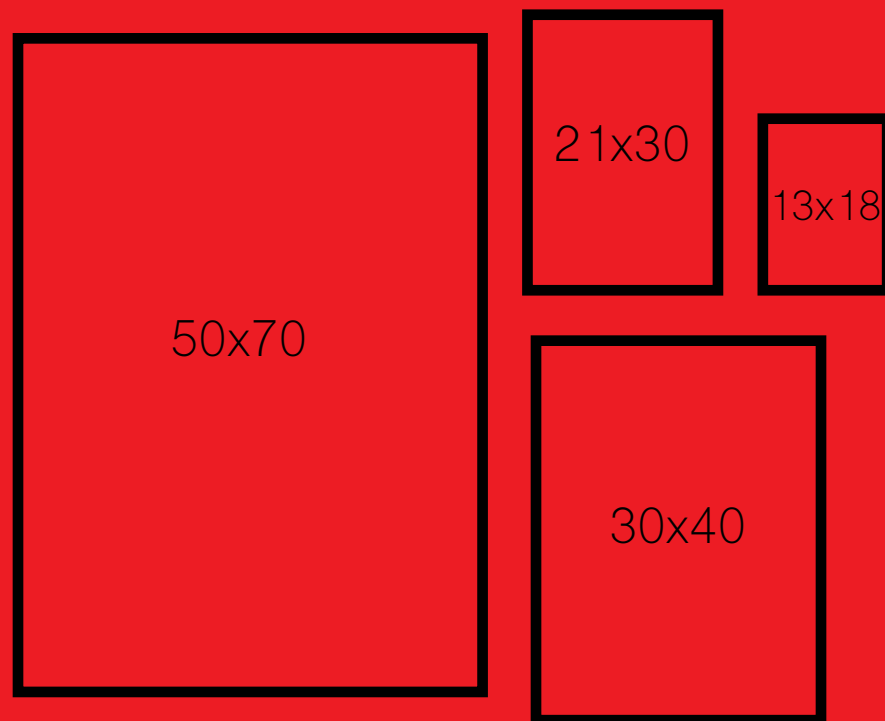
Wall Display

One of the best ways to showcase your hobby without cluttering a room is to display it on a wall so it doesn't take up valuable space (something city dwellers are always short on).

One of the most important rules for wall displays is to use frames. Sticking images directly on your wall will age you backward to the days of warm vodka shots and 2 pm wake-up calls. If it deserves a spot on the wall, it deserves a frame – whether it's your own art, photography, prints of your favourite band or inspirational quotes.

You can also opt for a statement piece, but that limits you to choosing one. For multiple pieces, try making a gallery wall with three to five of your favourite prints.

Not sure where to start? Check out our example below.



We've collected some examples in case you're still not sure how this all comes together.



Source: Pinterest



Source: Pinterest



Source: Pinterest



Shelving Display

Whether you're an avid traveller or part of a fandom, we know you've probably collected a lot of items related to your hobbies. These can be great conversation starters for new guests, and great memorabilia for the regulars.

So what do you do with them? Pick your favourite, or top three, and put them on display. Arrange them nicely on top of a flat surface. As for the rest? Put. Them. Away. If you're having a tough time deciding what to display, you can always rotate the items when you feel like a change.





Aptly named, your living room is where a lot of your home life takes place. Whether you are relaxing alone or entertaining guests, your living room is the centerpiece of your home. Your friends – and potential partners – will definitely be impressed when they come over to find a pad that is both stylish and personalized.

At the end of the day, the difference between a cluttered mess and a grown-up space is intention. Think about what you love, how much space it requires and what you can do to show off your personality.

Bedroom

You want to start and end your day in a room that is comfortable and calming – and so does anyone else waking up next to you. If you haven't purchased new bed sheets since you first moved out, it's probably time for a fresh set. Did you know you should have 3 sets of sheets at any given time? One on the bed, one in the wash and one spare in case of an emergency. A well-thought-out colour scheme, a proper bed with appropriate linens and a nightstand or two are also key to a grown-up bedroom





The Bed

There are many different styles of beds, but you will most likely be looking at boxspring, platform or trundle beds.

Unless your ceiling is so low that you can't stand in the room, there is no reason for your mattress to sit on the floor. At the very least, you should have it in an invisible metal frame for a box spring. For a more stylish bed frame, you can opt for metal, wood or fabric. The latter options come in a variety of finishes to give you endless options.



The most basic setup includes a basic wireframe, a box spring and a mattress. The bed frame will be invisible, with no head or footboards or side panels. This style of bed can be dressed up with a headboard and nice bedding.

Platform beds are the most common these days and come in a variety of styles. Platform beds have slatted bottoms that replace the need for a box spring. All you need is the bed and a mattress. The frame of these beds is always visible, but they come in a variety of styles. Some have headboards and/or footboards, others do not. The side panels can be minimal and almost invisible, or they can be a statement. Choose what catches your eye and works in the size of your space.



Trundle beds are a form of platform bed, but they have side panels that double as pull-out drawers. These are great for people who need more storage, as long as you have space to pull the drawers out.

Sheets

There is a lot of variety when it comes to sheets. You should be aiming for a natural material – cotton, bamboo, Tencel or silk. They tend to last longer and breathe better than synthetics – which is important for when you want a good night's sleep and for when things heat up in the bedroom. Here's a quick analysis of these materials to help you choose sheets that work best with your preferences.



Cotton

Pros: Breathable, affordable

Cons: Quality varies a lot

Tencel

Pros: Affordable, environmentally friendly

Cons: Less breathable than cotton

Silk


Pros: Cool, luxurious, hypoallergenic

Cons: Delicate fabric requires more care

Bamboo

Pros: Breathable, soft, durable

Cons: Often not environmentally friendly



Once you've settled on the best material for your sheets, colour and design are once again the primary factors to consider. Your pillowcases do not have to match the colour of your sheets, but if they do not match they should compliment each other. You can even get a couple sets of sheets that compliment each other, and mix and match the colours and the design.

A close-up photograph of a bed. The bed is covered with a blue duvet cover. A white pillow is placed on the bed, and a dark blue pillow is also visible. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the fabric.

Finishing Touches

You know, the comfy and decorative stuff? Yeah. We recommend some of that. Make sure you have a nice duvet, duvet cover and some extra pillows.

We are not at all recommending that you add five useless throw pillows to your bed that get thrown on the floor every night. If it fits your style, go for it. But only if you're willing to set them up every morning. You should have at least four practical, regular-sized pillows for extra comfort when you are reading or watching Netflix on your bed. Anyone else who may share the bed with you will also appreciate the added comfort..

To top off your bed, make sure you have a comfortable duvet and a duvet cover that goes with your room. If you're not down to take a duvet cover off and put it on again, you can opt for a comforter – they have a built-in cover. You can throw the whole comforter in the wash. The downside? Comforters are usually less fluffy and full. Also, most comforter fillings don't survive endless washes – which is why a duvet and duvet cover is really your best bet to help you keep things clean on your bed. Regardless of which one you choose, make sure it fits your lifestyle and colour scheme.

Feeling really lazy or have no idea how to match all this bedding? Your best bet is to buy a package where someone else has done the matching for you. Many retailers offer packages of comforters and duvets that include covers, pillows and sheets to take the guesswork out.



Storage

Your bed may be the most important part of the room because it is the biggest and the most used. But you also need to figure out storage – drawers, closets and bedside tables – to help you store and organize all your clothes and things.

Bedside tables are key for organization. Having a table with a lamp next to the bed allows for mood lighting when you want to wind down. It also gives you somewhere to put down water, your phone, a book or anything else you want in arm's reach. Most bedside tables also have drawers built in, which is great for keeping things nearby but out of sight.





Regardless of whether or not you have a closet, you will probably need at least some separate drawers for non-hanging items. Evaluate what needs to go in drawers, and think about how much storage you need. Do you need deep drawers to store away all of your jeans? Or do you need a lot of smaller drawers to separate socks, underwear and athletics? Make sure you have a setup that is functional for you.



If you follow our guide, you will end up with a bedroom that is extra hard to leave in the morning. Your bed will be as comfortable as it is stylish and our storage tips will ensure all eyes are on your decor – not clutter. You and your guest will definitely appreciate the upgrade.



Bathroom

When you think of decorating, you may not think your bathroom is part of the process. In all fairness, bathrooms require a lot less effort than other rooms. But a nicely styled bathroom shows everyone that encounters it that you are mature, thoughtful and care about the details. All you need for your bathroom is a colour scheme and matching bathroom essentials.

Like with any room, your bathroom should start with a colour scheme. Make sure your wall colour, shower curtain and bath linen all are based on your chosen palette.

Make sure you get a matching set of towels for your bathroom. At minimum, you should have bath towels and hand towels. It is also not a bad idea to invest in some face clothes. When shopping for towels, everything that matches is kept together, so it is easy to get a set that is truly the same colour and style. Shopping online can be even easier. If you click on one type of towel, the matching pieces are often suggested on the same page.

Make sure all towels hang on a proper rack or hook in the bathroom.





If you have a tub, you will also need a shower curtain and liner. The shower curtain is a fabric piece that goes on the outside of the tub. The liner is a plastic, waterproof curtain that goes inside the shower. A liner will keep the water inside the shower, and help protect your outer curtain.

Some optional finishing touches include a soap dispenser or nicely-bottled hand soap, and nice storage for things like toothbrushes and shaving tools.

Decorating your bathroom is a small extra step with big payoff. It shows that you pay attention to small details and prioritize comfort and hygiene. The best part? It can be completed one trip to a home store.



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