

Time to decorate

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for Metro Canada



Decorating your first home can be a daunting task. Especially with little left in the bank after this massive purchase.

Yet like an artist with a

blank canvas before him, that new set of house keys gives you the freedom to make your new home your own, your very own palette to reflect your personality.

High design on a budget does not have to mean low quality. There are many styl-

Homes in Style

ish pieces to be had that will not stress the bank account — and subsequently a new

marital relationship.

“What I have found with first-time homebuyers is they are looking for good value and good quality, without having to settle for the standard catalogue piece,” said Leslie Tokayer, broker at Royal LePage Partners Realty.

“They’re more savvy about where they spend their money and how they spend it, since they just spent a lot on their first home. They want to purchase pieces that can grow with them.”

Gone are the days of student living, with stained carpets, movie posters and old-fashioned furniture hand-me-downs.

“First-time homebuyers are no longer decorating with futons, or things you

can put together with an Allen key,” said

A classic style, yet modern with clean geometric lines, makes up the new spring Whisky Collection, made from 100 per cent eco-friendly birch veneer strips in rich tones of browns, reds and caramels in a matte finish. Pictured are and the Whisky Queen Bed (\$1,249), Urban Barn, urbanbarn.ca.

Tokayer, who works predominantly with first-time homebuyers. “They are no longer using their parents’ old sofa. They are looking for modern and stylized pieces, art, unique pieces that will express their personality, that are functional and practical.”

She says many of her clients this season are choosing dark hardwood on main floors, Berber carpeting upstairs, sectional sofas with chaise lounges and sunweave roller blinds — a contemporary theme with clean lines, compact minimalist pieces, and neutrals with an urban flair.



The Taupe Iron Cage or Traditional 60-inch floor lamps in espresso finish add an inexpensive shine to a room and a stylish hue with its ivory bell shape. Walmart, \$34.98, walmart.ca.



The George Eclipse, above, is a simple and conservative first 12-piece dining set. Walmart, \$39.97, walmart.ca.



Bar stools, while traditionally used at high countertops, can be used as additional seating easily moved between rooms. The Bamba Stool is 100 per cent eco-friendly for the eco-conscious new home buyer. Available in counter or bar height in espresso or caramel finishes. Urban Barn, \$199, urbanbarn.ca.

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Ottawa Riverkeeper, Ottawa, Ontario

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