



A FINE BALANCE

Lisa Perko from Wantem Design reveals why texture and layering are crucial for any lived-in space.

PHOTOS **JAHL MARSHALL**



Lisa's home, pictured here, is alive with texture. For example, the limewashing adds depth and luminosity to flat walls.

Texture is one of the most important elements in interior design as it keeps a space from feeling flat and one dimensional. Adding texture allows a space to come alive and provides a tactile experience with many points of interest.

Texture refers to the different surface qualities of floors, walls, rugs, furniture and soft furnishings, and texture can be either visual or tactile.

For instance, walls can have a variety of tactile textures, from seagrass wallpaper to exposed brick. In the photos I've used a specialty paint finish called limewashing. Limewash creates surfaces that are mottled and matt with a chalky texture – something like suede. It lends a depth and luminosity to flat walls.

I have introduced different textures and layering by grouping contrasting textures together – smooth polished décor items with matt textured ceramics or patterned objects. Plants are also an easy way to introduce texture into a room. Mixing materials and layering is the key to making textural elements work.

To get this right, don't overdo it as introducing too much texture will result in a cluttered look, feel overwhelming and compete for your attention. The key is to balance it with neutrals and smooth clean lines to allow your eyes to rest.

To achieve a cohesive and welcoming textural experience, decide on your design style first and then work through the different elements of the room to explore where you can introduce texture. Start with the floor, then walls, furniture, lighting and ceiling, then soft furnishings and décor items.

A well thought through textured interior should create tactile moments that invite touch and delight the senses. Whether you choose a patterned rug to warm up your bedroom floor or a wooden coffee table to bring life to your living space, the importance of texture is clear. It completes the room.

So don't be scared to try different combinations and layers. Step back and assess the results. Do they add appeal to the overall design or just clutter? Keep experimenting until you feel you have achieved the right balance. Enjoy! 🎯

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