

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Couple up**

*Ryan Beattie from La-Z-Boy offers his tips on how to achieve conflict-free and productive decorating as a couple.*

*11 June 2015, Johannesburg: “Decorating as a couple can be one of the biggest challenges facing a new couple – the combination of conflicting tastes and so many different style choices for your space are a recipe for disaster. Fortunately however, it only takes a bit of planning and a few key tips to ensure your decorating experience is fun, easy and successful,” says Ryan Beattie from La-Z-Boy.*

### **Open for discussion**

The most important part of decorating as a couple is planning and discussion, explains Ryan: “Planning and talking about the style and composition of your décor before you decorate will help avoid any conflict at a later phase during the decorating process. It will also ensure that decorating as a couple can be an easy and enjoyable process.” Things to consider include your budget, layout, essentials and nice-to-haves. It is also a good idea to divide the tasks up evenly so neither person feels like they’re doing more work than the other.

### **Mix and match**

It’s very important to remember that as a couple you both bring your own unique styles to the space you will be sharing. Mixing and matching elements of both of your styles will help bring a personal touch to your décor, and will ensure that both partner’s personal styles are being represented. Mixing and matching sentimental pieces that reflect each partner’s personality is important, as it will make the space feel more homely and personal. “Remember, that when incorporating personal pieces into a space, it’s advisable to only use pieces that add to the style you’re trying to achieve, rather than cluttering the space up with random sentimental pieces,” advises Ryan. Both partners being present when shopping, and a clear style plan will also be very beneficial in helping to create a cohesive end result.

### **Neutral territory**

There are a few aspects of design that should be kept gender neutral – not only will this help the space from becoming too masculine or too feminine, but it will also make the space a great canvas for adding personal touches. “Deciding which parts of your décor should be kept neutral is quite easy – it relates to anything that stands as a big feature in the space, such as a feature wall or big pieces of furniture for example,” suggests Ryan. When it comes to couches for example, choosing something that is both comfortable and stylish is ideal.

La-Z-Boy recliners and lounge suites are a prime example of how a single style can appeal equally to both sexes – the fact that this motion furniture is super comfortable will appeal to the men, while La-Z-Boy’s sleek, modern designs will appeal to the ladies. Something like a La-Z-Boy suite, which suits both partners and is neither too feminine nor masculine, is a perfect example of a gender-neutral choice.

“Wall colour is another important thing to keep neutral, and organically neutral tones such as whites, beiges, stones and greys are believed to be the most gender neutral,” explains Ryan. While it is a good idea to keep walls neutral, this isn’t a hard and fast rule, as if both people can agree on a non-neutral colour that works can be an option too. “Neutral choices are also great for any design element that is causing conflict or where a mutual decision can’t be reached,” adds Ryan.

### **Clever compromises**

While you might not particularly like your boyfriend’s old band posters, and he might not like your obsession with vintage ornaments, it’s important to remember that both parties can bring their own unique style and flare to any space. And while being able to incorporate a bit of everyone’s style is first choice, unfortunately it isn’t always an option, explains Ryan: “Making choices, and sometimes sacrifices, that make the space more enjoyable and more a reflection of you as a couple versus you as an individual, can sometimes be difficult, but in the greater scheme of things a small compromise now, will often lead to an amazing space later.” It’s important to remember that you’re creating a space that both of you need to be able to love and call home.

ENDS

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