

PRESS RELEASE

Living in luxury

Claire Gibson from leading motion furniture manufacturer, La-Z-Boy, offers some advice on how to make your home look and feel like a luxury hotel.

20 January 2017, Johannesburg: One of the most decadently enjoyable parts of being a tourist is being able to savour and enjoy the stylish indulgence inherent in luxury hotels. Most of us are willing to sink our hard-earned cash into being granted the opportunity to experience such exquisite luxury, even if it is just for a few days – after all, you are on holiday, and you deserve it...

However, don't you think that you deserve to experience this kind of sumptuous comfort on a daily basis – even if it is just in a small way? Claire Gibson, from leading motion furniture manufacturer, La-Z-Boy, thinks that each and every one of us do, and she explains that it is within our reach: "No matter what your budget is, with careful planning and some forethought, it is possible to achieve a lavish and luxurious lifestyle at home. Even though high-class hotels don't come cheap – they employ the best-of-the-best designers and only use the most lavish materials – you will be surprised at what you can accomplish on your own."

She provides her top pointers on how to achieve this look in your home:

- 1.) Always use good quality furniture and materials:** Since expectations are high when you are paying premium in a luxury hotel, only the best of everything is used – from fittings to furniture and décor pieces. Claire notes that not only do top of the line pieces look good, but they are good for the hotel's bottom line as well, as quality products generally last much longer. She says: "When decorating, always choose the best quality items that you can afford – it is better to have less, but the few items that you do have are high-end pieces. Items that you should never skimp on include flooring, beds and bedding, rugs, window dressing and of course, seating."
- 2.) Choose a neutral colour palate:** The colour palette that you should choose needs to be gender-neutral and above all, calming and serene, notes Claire: "The colour scheme must scream class and sophistication, and should err towards a more neutral colour scheme, such as soft beige, light grey, pale blues, whites and fauns. You can always add a pop of glamour by including a dash of metallic or more saturated tones – such as silver, bronze or gold trimmings for example. However, the rule is never to go over the top with these small highlighting tones."
- 3.) Err on the side of simplicity:** Always choose furniture that is sophisticated, timeless and plain, over pieces that are overly fussy and intricate. Notes Claire: "You can use pieces with clean, sophisticated lines to create a neutral and clean foundation, which you can spruce up using smaller pieces that can be easily swapped out as fashions and trends change. For example, it is a far better option to choose a streamlined Norman or Houston recliner from La-Z-Boy, which boasts neat and elegantly contemporary design lines, over seating that is over the top."

- 4.) **Focus on areas of respite:** Like a hotel room, your home should offer refuge from the stresses and strains of life. As such, Claire explains that it is important to pay extra attention to rooms in your home where you relax and unwind, such as the bathroom, the bedroom and of course, the living room: “Be sure to layer these areas with sumptuous materials that are inviting, and to include items of furniture that makes the experience of that room one of supreme comfort. Motion furniture is a good example – not only do the high-end models look stylish, but they also make the act of being seated sumptuously comfortable and inviting. You can opt for a single recliner in the bedroom for reading, or an entire suite in the living room, where you can put your feet up and relax with family or friends.”
- 5.) **Include a good lighting scheme:** A hotel is never dark or dreary, but rather, it is always well lit with chandeliers, wall sconces, downlights, lamps and mood lighting. Lighting is something that should never be overlooked, says Claire: “Be sure to include a layered lighting design in every room, where the lighting can be dimmed or made brighter, depending on the mood you are going for.”
- 6.) **Climate control is a must:** Air conditioning and heating are an essential element for a true hotel-type living experience. “A hotel is never too hot or too cold – the temperature is always just right. As such, be sure to include adequate air-conditioning and heating in your home for a luxurious feel. Fire places, whether gas or wood-burning, will take the hotel ambience to the next level,” explains Claire.
- 7.) **A sensory experience:** Don’t forget to appeal to all five of your senses when decorating. The décor, if well executed, will appeal to most of your senses, but don’t forget the sense of smell, says Claire: “Don’t underestimate how a wonderful smell can make you feel – you can transform an experience of a space by diffusing it with attractive and inviting smells. This can be achieved by including the likes of scented candles, diffusers, flowers, and so on.”
- 8.) **Avoid the clutter:** When decorating to emulate a hotel, Claire notes that clutter is the enemy: “All spaces in a hotel, whether big or small, are always neat, organised and space-savvy. There are adequate bookcases, tables, shelves, and chest of drawers to accommodate everything that is required. Also, there is nothing in a hotel space that is not meant to be there – everything has been painstakingly chosen and carefully arranged for the best possible aesthetic end result. So choose your decor pieces wisely, and be sure to include enough storage so that all your day-to-day items can be neatly stowed out of the way.”
- 9.) **Bring nature into your space:** Flowers and greenery are a key element in all hotel spaces – no well appointed hotel should ever be short of elegant, aromatic flower arrangements and luscious green foliage. Claire says it is easy to achieve this at home: “Always include flower arrangements in your home, or if you have budget constraints, then choose house plants that are both attractive and easy to maintain, such as orchids, lilies or delicious monsters for example.”
- 10.) **Recreation is key:** Hotels are all about relaxing and enjoying yourself, and although you may not have the budget to include a sauna or indoor pool in your home, you can still try and mimic the concept of

recreational style, says Claire: “Be sure to amp up your recreation spaces by making the most of the areas in which you enjoy in-home entertainment. The area in your home that houses your home entertainment systems is a great example – create an in-home cinema type vibe by including motion furniture, great lighting, good sound to ensure that using it is a memorably luxurious experience.”

ENDS

Released on behalf of La-Z-Boy (www.la-z-boy.co.za) by the Line (www.theline.co.za).