



Turn Up The Heat - And The Style!

As the days are now shorter and nights are colder and with the holidays ahead, we are craving cozy evenings curled up by the fireplace. But this fabulous interior feature is so much more than just a cold-weather comfort. As a designer, I love incorporating fireplaces into many of my designs. The fireplace is the obvious focal point

and gathering place; thus, it demands some thoughtful consideration on a few matters.

If you wish to add a fireplace to your home in 2019, here are some things to consider

THE STYLE

There are about as many different styles of the fireplace as there are many types of personality. Shop around, and remember that

your fireplace will likely dictate the overall style of the room, so choose carefully.

Contemporary styles are enjoying their hey-day, with some really beautiful linear fireplaces, see-through designs, double-sided and three-sided units, with crystals, river rocks or driftwood log inserts. While contemporary is certainly cool, there's something to be said about a classic style of fireplace. These choices tend to age well, often



featuring hardwood or a universal neutral stone surround from companies like Erth Coverings that won't soon go out of style.

Did you know? The fireplace mantel was originally intended to catch smoke and soot. Nowadays, it has become a feature piece. A heavy mantel is wonderful to display seasonal collections, photos or art.

THE SURROUNDINGS

Since the fireplace is an instant focal point in a space, it's important to ensure its surroundings complement and highlight it well. The classic layout is to arrange furniture in a U shape, facing the fireplace, inviting people to sit, chat and inevitably, nap. Accessorize the area with cozy blankets, pillows and a snug rug underfoot for the ultimate comfort. When springtime rears its head again, you can swap these heavier, thicker textiles for lighter, airier ones.

Above the fireplace, hang a mirror or a piece of art that echoes the size of the fire-box, which will achieve balance.



INSTALLATION

As important as the fireplace itself, is how it is installed. In this regard, "out of sight, out of mind" is the goal. Ensure you consult a contractor or installer, who can tell you about what's possible, what isn't, and how much it'll all cost. To ensure the right product is selected and installed, work with a qualified fireplace expert. A great resource is Kastle Fireplaces, which I recommend for their expertise on everything from the size of the unit to materials best to be used in the space.

Designer Find: The latest must-see is the Valor radiant gas fireplaces, which employ a unique hidden ducting system that draws heat up and re-circulates it in the room. The walls and the general area around the fireplace are cooler, reducing the risk of fire or damage to surface materials and valuables like artwork or electronics.

If the thought of curling up by the hearth, listening to the crackling fire, and enjoying the ambience warms your heart, a fireplace you love will be well worth the investment.



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For over a decade this Toronto bespoke design firm has become known for creating stylish, thoughtfully curated and livable interiors. The firm provides residential design services for projects of all sizes.

Sara Bederman Design works throughout Toronto, GTA and beyond.

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