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There Are No Rules: Interior Designer Shane Inman On Design

Spring is the best time of year to clean out your home and redecorate. Get experimental this season and try a pop of color in the form of an accent wall or add a bright throw to your sofa for a fresh new look. But, of course, there's much more to design than paint and a rambunctious throw. Our life is so strongly connected to design and aesthetics that it becomes a type of philosophy. So to help you get your design A-game on this season, we caught up with interior designer Shane Inman, CEO of [The Inman Company](#), to unearth his design philosophies and reveal to us what makes a happy home.

Were you always interested in the design world?

You bet - from the very start of my existence, I was obsessed with Legos, infatuated with coloring books and could expertly draw anything from fashion to home. When I entered college, I knew that I was going to be either a fashion designer or an interior designer - I decided upon interior design because at the time, my father's alma mater (Michigan State University) had one the leading programs for interiors.

What makes a home happy?

A happy home is one that motivates and inspires a single inhabitant or an entire family unit. Happiness means surrounding yourself with all the tangible parts and pieces of your life that complete you - objects that have meaning and offer value into your life. Another important part of a happy home is also the components that make your life easier and more comfortable - a spacious bathroom with a performance shower, a well-designed Chef's kitchen, temperature-controlled flooring, etc.

Do you have any rules?

I have only one rule - "there are no rules." Professionally speaking, I feel in today's age - anything goes for an interior space - it is all about what you like and what makes you feel good about the life you live. However, it is all about editing and using age-old guidelines to make sure that everything reads as aesthetically pleasing - with an element of taste and timelessness.

What's some of your design philosophies?

My philosophies that I preach as well as practice is to push my client's envelope and to move my client's out of their comfort zones so they can have something unique. It is all about taking chances and making statements that really allow their own personality to be visible.

What do you look for in a client?

When interviewing clients - I look for those that understand the value that a professional interior designer bring to the project - honesty, integrity, loyalty and

the sense of urgency that is required for successful completion. One that comprehends the significance of having an advocate to protect their hard-earned money, their precious time and most importantly, their sanity.

What's your next big project?

The next big project on my company's horizon is a boutique hotel in Manhattan. Something that I have wanted to do my entire existence as an interior designer.

How do you define luxury?

I define luxury as how a particular object or experience makes you feel - certainly not the price tag of either item. If you find something to be of utter beauty and it has the ability to alter your mood in a positive manner - then that is luxury.

What are your vices?

My vice that gets me through my long days is physical fitness. In the winter months I go to the gym every morning. In the summer I run outside - 5 miles, 4 days a week. Nothing clears my head and gives me additional energy than taking care of my physical self.