

Style COUNCIL



What to do if he loves minimal...

It would never do for everybody's tastes to be the same, but if your approach is eclectic and his minimalist, decorating your marital home could become a war zone. Zoe Hubbard from Maison Interiors, explains how to avoid arguments and create a veritable style council

Be open minded

Don't have your guard up as soon as this process starts. Sometimes it's good to try something new. If you can't accept your husband's taste in its entirety, follow the basic principle that for every 'No' there should be a 'Yes'; for instance 'No I don't like that sofa style' but 'Yes I do like the fabric'. Then find a new style of sofa which you both can live with in the same fabric.

Make a list

Decisions on staple pieces, such as furniture and flooring should be made together. Make a list of items that require both partner's approval, that way he (or you) can't make a major purchase without the other one's agreement. Once these items are decided upon, you will have inadvertently agreed on a style. This should subsequently make choosing smaller ticket items much easier.

Learn to compromise

If you're both bringing furniture from previous houses into the marital home, you will need to decide what stays and what goes. You might not like your partner's 50" plasma screen but he may loathe shabby chic, so you will need to find a middle ground that you both can live with. E.g. put the television in the snug, rather than in the main lounge and limit your shabby chic passion to the guest bedroom.

Have a vision

Sometimes it's difficult to know what your partner's home interior style is, until you see it. So it's a great idea to get a Houzz or Pinterest account and create a bank or 'board' of images that you and your partner can add to. Keep going and you will eventually see your mutual style and scheme emerging. It's a lot easier to convince one another of a specific design idea if you can show something similar that has already been created.

Photography courtesy of Amitco at Maison Interiors



...but you have an eclectic taste

Conflict of interest

If it happens that you and your partner are at the opposite ends of the design spectrum e.g. retro and classic, believe it or not, it can still work. The key to successfully pulling this off, is to incorporate just a little of the dominant style for the odd occasional furniture piece and accessories, with the more subtle style used for larger items and areas such as sofas, flooring and walls.

Have separate rooms

Not as drastic as it sounds! One final way to lessen the conflict, is to make combined decisions on the main areas i.e. the kitchen or living room and then allocate the other areas between you. So one makes the decisions on the bedroom and the other on the home office etc. However be aware that although this can help to prevent arguments, there is a risk that your home will lack continuity of style.