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HOME

DESIGN & DECOR

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mixing METALS

No, don't be afraid!

Mixing metals is not only IN, it adds character and depth not to mention, it's completely easy. There is a method to the madness, so just keep these tips in mind and you won't go wrong.

Choose a dominant metal.

Decide which finish you like the most and then select one or two metal accents to complete the look. Having a primary metal ensures your space some cohesion, while accent metals will guide the eyes throughout the room.

Blend warm and cool metals.

Warm metals, like gold and brass, offer a rich pop of color and texture when paired with cool metals like silver and chrome. For example, a stainless steel kitchen can be warmed up with a gold chandelier or vintage piece that adds charm. Alternately, if you have a very warm gold and white space, a chrome furniture piece or pendant will add metallic equilibrium.

Separate with height.

If you have a table with gold legs in your living room, don't be afraid to hang a mercury glass or vintage silver mirror above the fireplace. The separation in space allows the eye to roam unencumbered from top to bottom.

Consider your palette.

Warm metals pair well with warm hues like reds, browns and yellows, while cool metals pair nicely with cool hues like blues, greens and violet. A neutral palette is perfect for adding the equal mix of both giving the perfect amount of warmth, color and texture.

Create a lot of texture.

Varying the texture of your metal finishes can make all of the difference in defining a space. Don't be afraid to have up to three different textures on metals. Combine matte, polished and hammered finishes for a truly rich and visually diverse design.

Spread metals evenly in the space.

Try not to cluster the metals together, which can lead to a cluttered and mis-matched look. Instead, spread the metals evenly over the room; in a kitchen for example, a chrome faucet, brass pendant and neatly stored copper pots can look balanced and well spaced in an airy room.