

TORONTO SUN **NEW HOMES & CONDOS**

Buy a chair, support a charity



JANE LOCKHART
**DESIGN
CONFIDENTIAL**

How often have you really thought about having nothing? I'm sure most of us are thankful for all that we have daily, wishing and working for more.

But what would it be like to have absolutely nothing? I mean, no chair, no stove, no bed or anything at all.

In our rich western society we rarely have to face this possibility so it's something that we truly can't imagine.

Working as a designer in residences across Canada, I regularly see the items customers' desire, from better kitchens, to upgraded floors and bigger sectionals.

We work hard for these items and feel the reward of the comfort provided by these possessions spread around us, shared by friends and family.

It's these personal pieces, that not only provide a function but give us a sense of identity and personalize our spaces.

But what happens if you are starting again; all those pieces no longer exist and you are beginning a new life whether in a new country or you have finally been able to find a way off the streets?

How do you start again with nothing when all you want to do is create a home?

I must admit that I never really thought about what makes a home feel homey? Obviously in my business I talk a lot about comfort and function but it's always based on the idea that clients are starting with something and exchanging it for a better, more useful version.

And yet, when I think about anyone's home, it's the furniture and possessions with which they interact daily that is considered.

It's the fabrics, the colours, and the shapes of furniture that we identify with and call "our own style." Home is not just a building, it's what inside that counts.

Thankfully, Sister Ann Schenck already understood this many years ago when she created the charity, The Furniture Bank.

As a registered charity, it works with 78 social service partner agencies across the city in identifying those who are transitioning out of homelessness, women and children escaping abusive situations and refugees and newcomers who need the few basic elements of home.

Established in 1998, The Furniture Bank accepts donations of gently used furniture from anyone and provides a tax receipt for the items provided. This can be done year round simply by contacting them at (416) 934-1229 ext 2.

But you can also contribute to the Furniture Bank

(while enjoying a fabulous party) by attending the 6th annual Chair Affair www.furniturebank.org/chairaffair/.

Hosted by comedian and author, Jessica Holmes, this fun-filled night also features food by various chefs including Chef Michael Smith and a special performance by Styx frontman, Gowan.

There's still time to buy a ticket to join top designers, #6dad and Councillor, Norm Kelly and furniture industry elite and help support a great local charity. It's on this weekend, Friday Oct. 28 at casalife.com.

Come out and bid on fabulously repurposed chairs by top designers across the GTA. This year's participants include: Cori Halpern, Michelle Mawby, Karen Sealy and Evelyn Eshun.

When you're there, look for the Twitter Canada/Norm Kelly chair, it's available for you to bid on. I happen to know they had a little help from a friend transforming it!

We are so fortunate, let's share it with those who need some assistance by pur-



Celebrity designer Jane Lockhart and local councillor Norm Kelly will be on hand to celebrate and support The Furniture Bank's 6th Annual Chair Affair on Friday, Oct. 28.

chasing a ticket to The Chair Affair and invest in an amazing Canadian designed chair for a great cause. www.furniturebank.org/chairaffair/.

— Award-winning designer, TV personality and spokesperson Jane Lockhart is one of Canada's leading experts in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.

Picking out the perfect colour



MELISSA DAVIS
**LIFE
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Colour is arguably the most powerful element in a design scheme. The advertising industry, out of necessity, has championed the topic — and perusing any number of articles on the subject tells you how important the topic has always been.

Remarkably, 90% of an assessment for trying out a product is made by colour alone. Imagine how that notion translates into interior design.

Whether my clients fancy a trendy colour scheme or timeless palette, understanding the basic theory of colour and its effects can help us to make the right choices.

Finding the perfect white is not the elusive unicorn us pros claim and the key to creating the

perfect room can be as simple as selecting the colour that evokes the feeling you hope to bring about.

As the Dutch proverb says "Gezelligheid kent geen tijd" meaning coziness is more important than the literal time together. I like to think a comfortable space will help maximize the time we share in it.

Here are my top tips and advice to help you select a paint colour with confidence.

First impressions

Different colours will evoke different feelings, here's a list:

- **Red** (warm) has a physical effect, raising blood pressure and respiration rates. It enhances human metabolism, which is why we see it used in dining spaces.

"Red is such an interesting colour to correlate with emotion, because it's on both ends of the spectrum. On one end you have happiness, falling in love, infatuation with someone, passion, all that. On the other end, you've got obsession, jealousy, danger, fear, anger and frustration." — Taylor Swift

- **Yellow** (warm) is the most energizing of the warm colors. Use honeybee yellow to evoke a sense of happiness and cheerfulness; or, dark and gold and honey-hued tones to give an antique look and to create a sense of richness.

- **Blue** (cool) has a feeling that is relaxed and calming.

- **Green** (cool) is the easiest colour for the eye to look at and has a balancing, harmonizing effect.

- **Purple** (cool) is associated with royalty, creativity and imagination.

Understanding undertones

What you see at first glance is the color's mass tone, but what is less obvious is the undertone. Use undertone to skillfully

emphasize or downplay elements within a home.

Have you heard a designer say, 'that colour will highlight the red in the floors.' We're referring to the undertones. It can seem a bit counterintuitive but it works!

If there are cherry floors that we're not keen on, I'll select a neutral shade for the walls with a hint of red in it. The eye picks up the similarities and overall reads the floors as more neutral.

Palette messaging

Each colour sends its own message, for example, a colour chosen from a historic and neutral palette offers muted, rich, and muddied tones, and a depth and strength that speak to permanence.

Benjamin Moore's 2017 colour of the year, which it unveiled at an exclusive event held at Toronto's Casa Loma earlier this month, is a spectacular example of this.

Shadow 2117-30 is a rich, royal amethyst (a clear purple or bluish-purple stone that is used as a gem) consisting of deep saturated hues.



Benjamin Moore recently revealed its Colour of the Year 2017, called 'Shadow,' a colour that calls to mind a past yet which can also make a contemporary statement.

"Allusive and enigmatic, Shadow is a master of ambiance. It is a colour that calls to mind a 'past,' yet it can also make a contemporary, colour-confident statement," says the company.

Here is a colour that works beautifully because it is of appeal to both the traditional among

us and to youth who gravitate toward the most current of everything.

— Melissa Davis is a celebrity designer well-known for her appearances and work on several HGTV programs. Visit her at www.melissadavis.com.