

Centerpiece of your living room



A white sofa with a simple design can make your living room look more spacious. Photo: Full House Communications

How to pick the right sofa for your home

By Belinda Wan

No matter how big your living room is, a sofa always anchors the space where family members get together to watch television or just spend time with one another. But how do you pick the right sofa for your home?

Living room trends

Mr Kelvin Koh, director of Cosimo Gallery cited three looks that are perennially popular – contemporary, which features loud and vibrant colours, a metallic look, mirrors and leather sofas; an industrial, part retro factory look involving a lot of greys and pipes; and mix and match.

Fully owned by a leather sofa manufacturing plant specialising in mechanical sofas with a 51-year history, Cosimo Gallery is one of the top manufacturers of recliners in Malaysia.

Ms Lim Lai Hwa, managing director of Full House Communications, which is organising The Big Furniture Fair (see box), said: "Brick walls, Venetian blinds and track lightings are key trends for the living room right now."

How can you replicate a look successfully?

Mr Koh said: "Instead of copying a look blindly, consider how you can blend in the theme and trend to suit your home. After all, every house is unique, and everyone has different tastes and preferences."

"Another fixture that will change the way a living room looks is the lighting. The right type of lighting can add a finishing touch to the whole living room concept and presentation, be it Neo-classic, country, or industrial."

Ms Lim said the right furnishings, such as wall panels that emulate natural surfaces like brick and wood, as well as energy-saving LED down lights and hanging lights can make a world of difference to your living room.

Selecting the right sofa

It is also crucial to pick the right sofa to enable your chosen look to translate well to your living room. Mr Koh said: "A key piece of furniture that can change the look of your living room completely is definitely your sofa. It is, after all, the main piece of furniture in your living room."



Give your living room a sleek, modern look with the right sofa and fixtures.

Photo: Cosimo Gallery



A sofa with built-in recliners in a bright colour livens up your living room in a striking way. Photo: Cosimo Gallery

But what types of sofas should you go for? Ms Lim said recliners, and modular and two-seater sofas are good, popular choices.

She said: "If you are going for a classy, sophisticated look, genuine leather exudes an air of elegance and is much more durable than fabric sofas. If you are going for a natural and timeless look, solid wood furniture made using teak and mahogany will never go out of style."

Your choice of sofa also depends on the look you want to achieve and vibe you want to give off.

Mr Koh said: "For instance, a Chesterfield sofa will give you an old English feel. A sectional sofa with metal legs and a flamboyant colour will imbue your living room with a vibrant and modern feel."

Tips on how to choose a sofa

Before you splurge on an expensive sofa, consider the size of your home, and the needs of your family members. Comfort means different things to people.

Choosing a sofa that is just the right size for your home is paramount, said Mr Koh.

"Selecting the right sofa starts with having the right dimensions. Homeowners who are not too sure about their living room dimensions can ask us for a free site measurement. As a manufacturer, we are able to customise and modify our sofas to suit your living room," he said.

Mr Koh also advised keeping your personal preferences for comfort in mind. For instance, are

Go big on home trends

Looking for new furniture? Don't miss The BIG Furniture Fair, organised by Full House Communications.

Happening from April 23 to May 2, the fair features more than 300 sofa designs, more than 200 dining sets, 400 mattresses and bed frames. \$50,000 worth of free gifts await those who make a minimum \$100 deposit. Shoppers also stand a chance to win \$18,000 worth of cash prizes.

Representatives from the top five interior design firms will conduct a series of talks that incorporate fengshui and intelligent home systems to help create beautiful, practical and auspicious homes.

The acronym BIG stands for Beautiful, Innovative and Gorgeous, which describe the products at the fair aptly.

Ms Lim Lai Hwa, managing director of Full House Communications, said: "It is the perfect show for homeowners who want to recreate or upgrade their homes."

"Offering top-range local and imported furniture, furnishing products and services, this annual event always provides up-to-date products and designs, attractive deals and enticing interior packages for all."

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