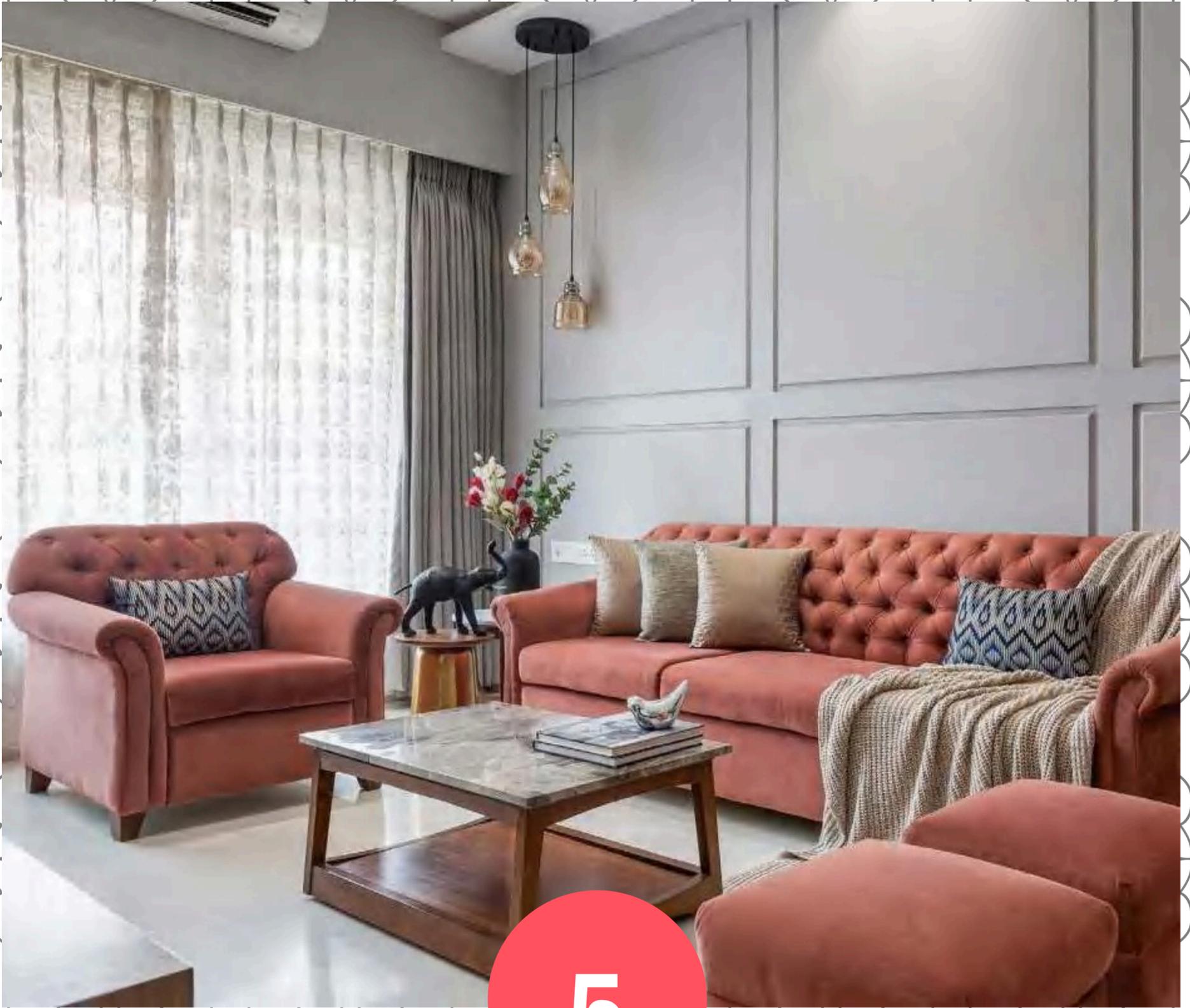


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5

Interior Design Mistakes You're Making & How To Fix Them

HOW YOUR HOME CAN BE...



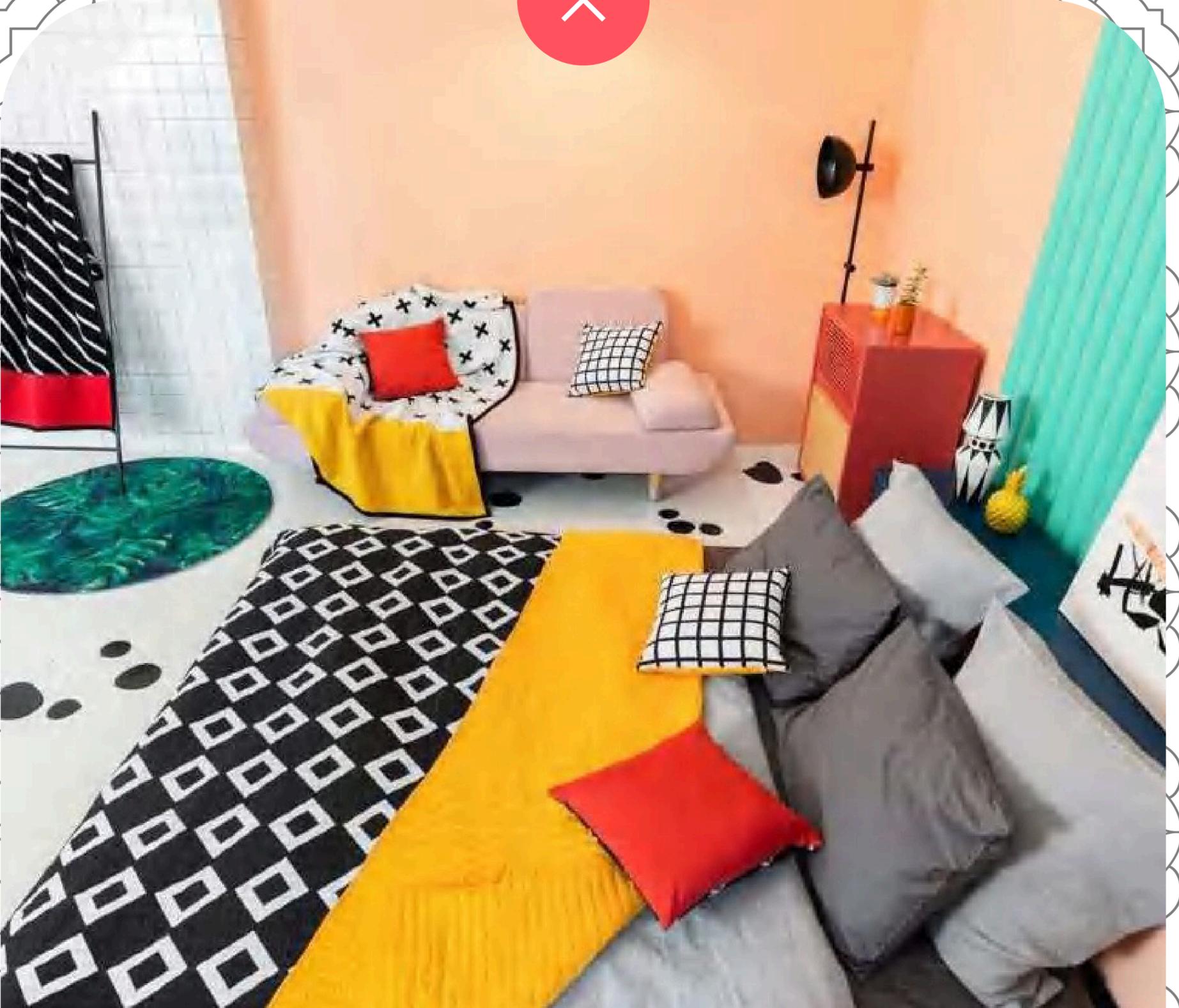
THE MISTAKES YOU MAY BE MAKING...



- ▶ Cluttered layout
- ▶ Insufficient lighting
- ▶ Mismatched furniture
- ▶ No design continuity

#1

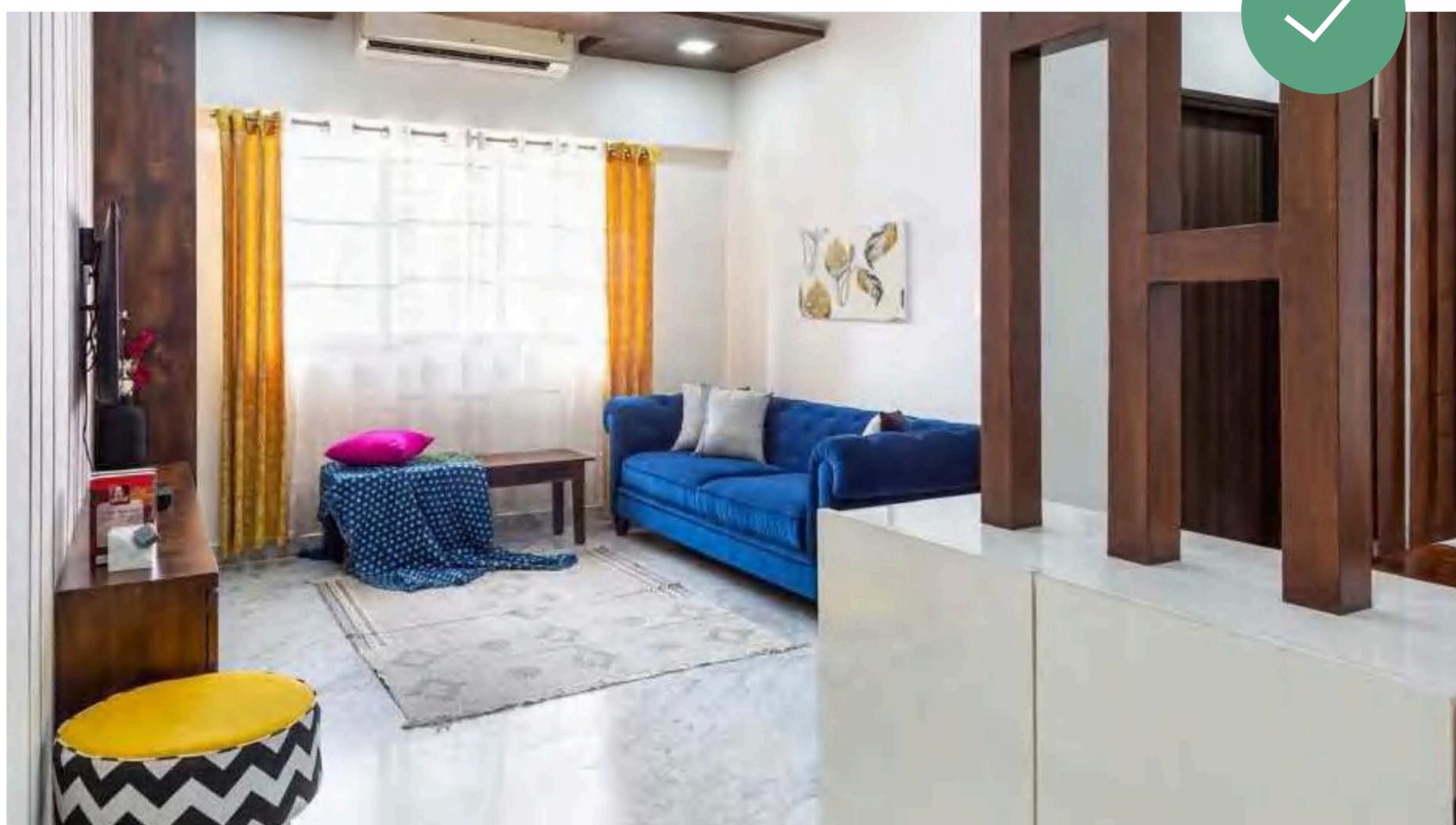
**Too many styles
spoil the look**



You are free to pick a design style for your home as long as the space permits. However, you cannot pick one style and ask the designer to implement the design elements of another style. For instance, minimal is the most misused design style in our times. Most homeowners think that minimal is a style you should choose for a budget home. However, minimalism has nothing to do with being frugal; it's about having lesser and not cheaper things.

THE FIX:

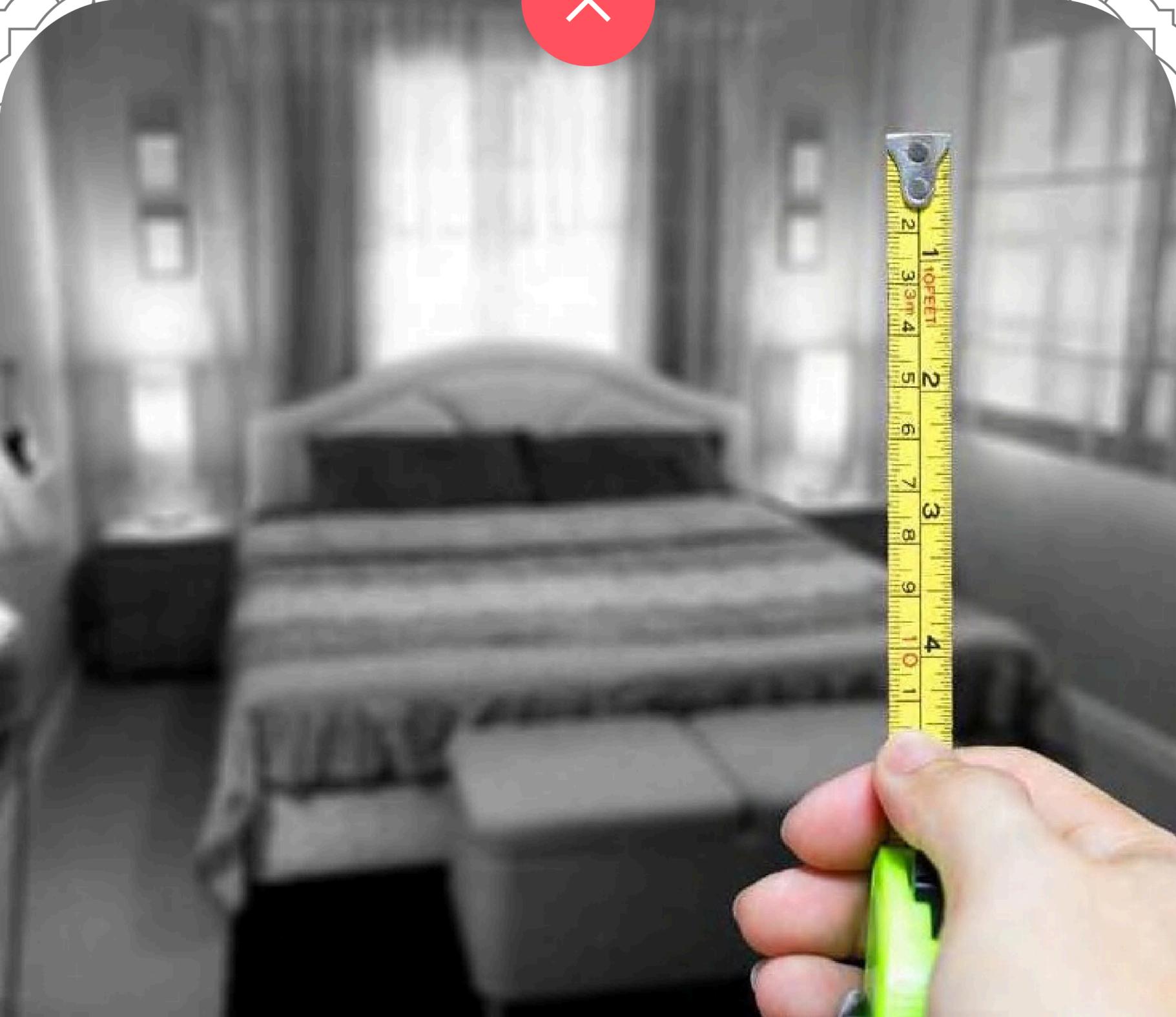
FIND THE STYLE THAT'S A REFLECTION OF YOU



We recommend you do some research online by surfing interior design magazines that provide reliable information and inspiration (like yours truly). Then pick a style that resonates with your taste. Once you have set your heart on the style, you must follow the design aesthetics of that style. Be true to the design style in spirit but don't stick to details too religiously. A space looks unoriginal if you follow a style too much by the book. Let your personality shine through but only within the boundaries of the style language for a more aesthetically pleasing space.

#2

Poor space management



The dimensions of your home are fixed; they are not going to magically expand. So you must always furnish 'for' your space and not in spite of it. What you choose to buy and furnish with is your call. But if you have a compact home, we recommend you rule out bulky furniture, too many deep colours or heavy furnishings. On the contrary, if your home is a spacious one, you must fill the space with furniture that has the appropriate scale.

THE FIX: **FURNISH ACCORDING TO SPACE**

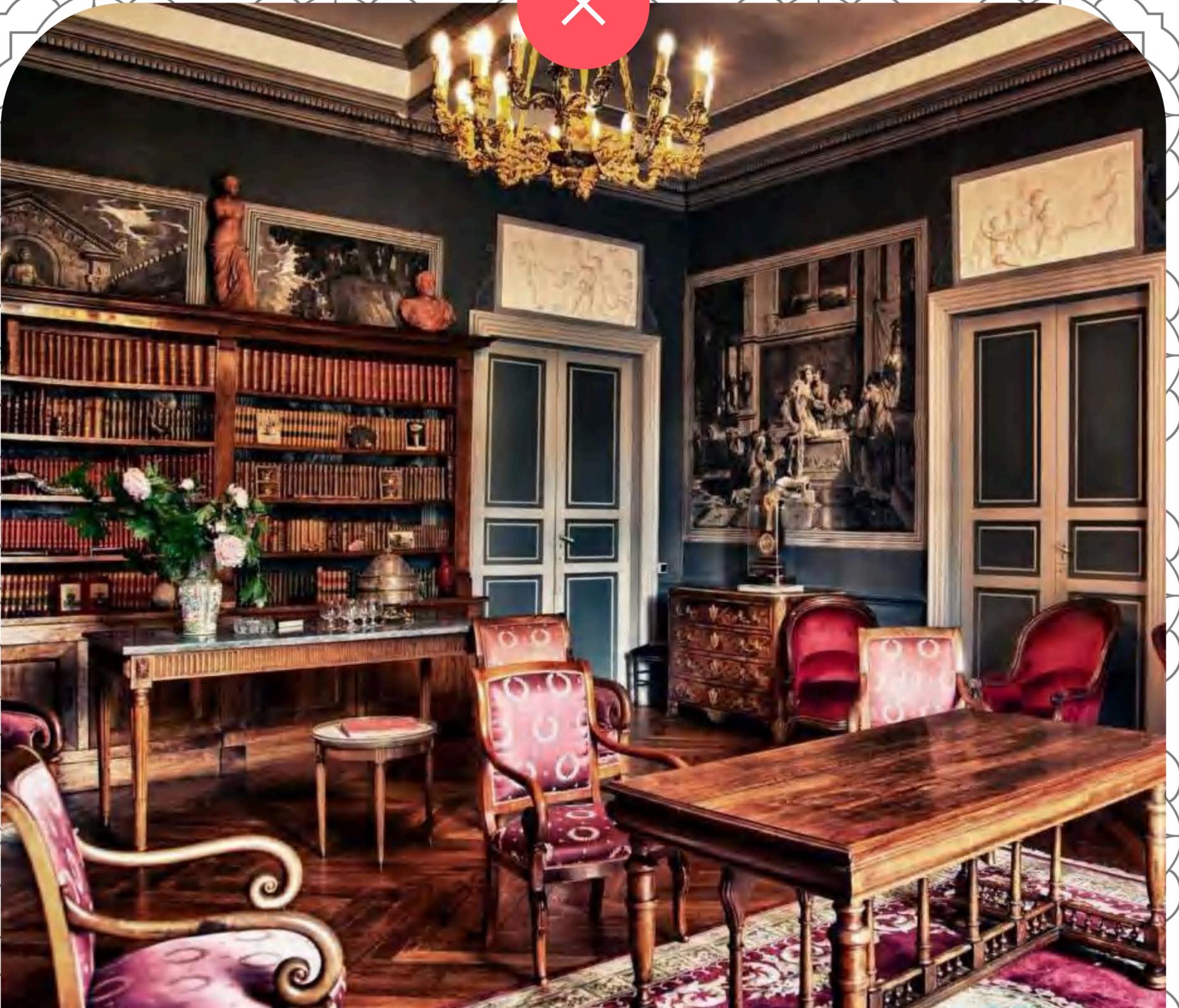


Prevention is better than cure, so first, get your home measured by professionals. Then, make a keen note of the measurements of every item that you intend to put in your home. See if all of it fits the amount of available space. Is there too much or too little space left behind? For compact homes, look at multi-functional or floating/wall-mounted furniture that saves space. For larger homes, pick taller shelves, wall-to-wall cabinets and other furniture that is bigger on scale. A designer can also help you customise some solutions unique to your space/needs.

#3

Using too many or too few colours

X



Colours have an instant effect on our mood. A bright cheery yellow room may uplift your mood instantly, and a serene blue wall in your bedroom may help you sleep. However, colours do more than change your mood; they also determine how cluttered or breezy your space looks. If you pick too many dark shades like black, brown or navy blue for a small space, it will look dark and dingy. Similarly, a room devoid of colour is also no fun.

THE FIX:
STRIKE A BALANCE

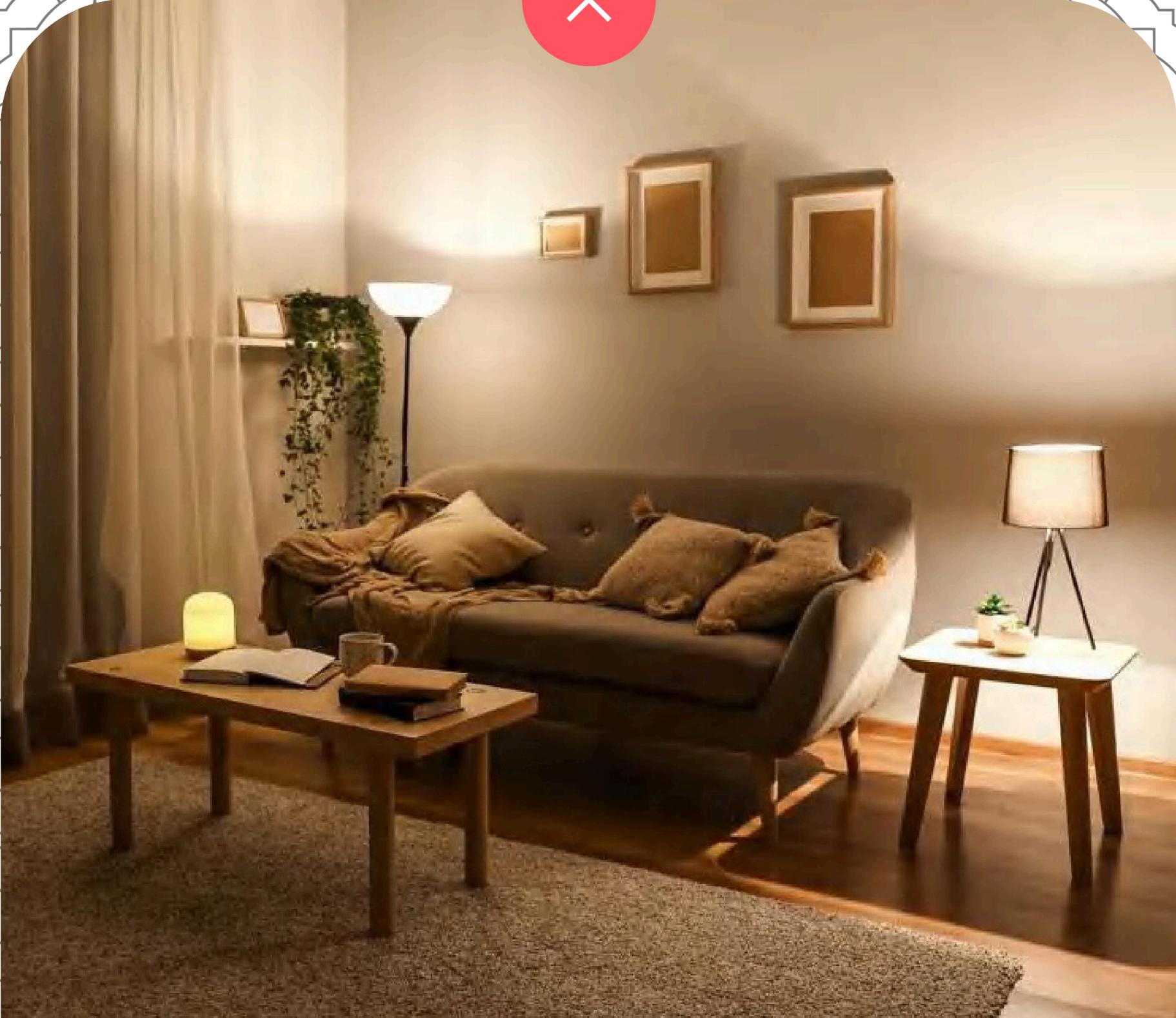


Pick lighter colours like neutrals, pastels and whites for compact spaces with pops of colours to liven up the space. You can experiment with colours in a larger home. But avoid using more than two or three contrasting colours within the same space. You can use different shades of a colour to create texture. In fact, texture is also what rescues an all-white or monochromatic room from being boring.



#4

Poor or harsh lighting



The dream is to have a naturally well lit home. However, in the absence of that, a common design mistake that most people are likely to make, is to either install unnecessary bright lighting or to make a room unforgivingly dull. For instance, a bedroom with super bright chandeliers and spotlights is absolutely unflattering, and not to mention terrible for your sleep. Alternately, a kitchen with dim lighting will just not work in terms of functionality!

THE FIX:

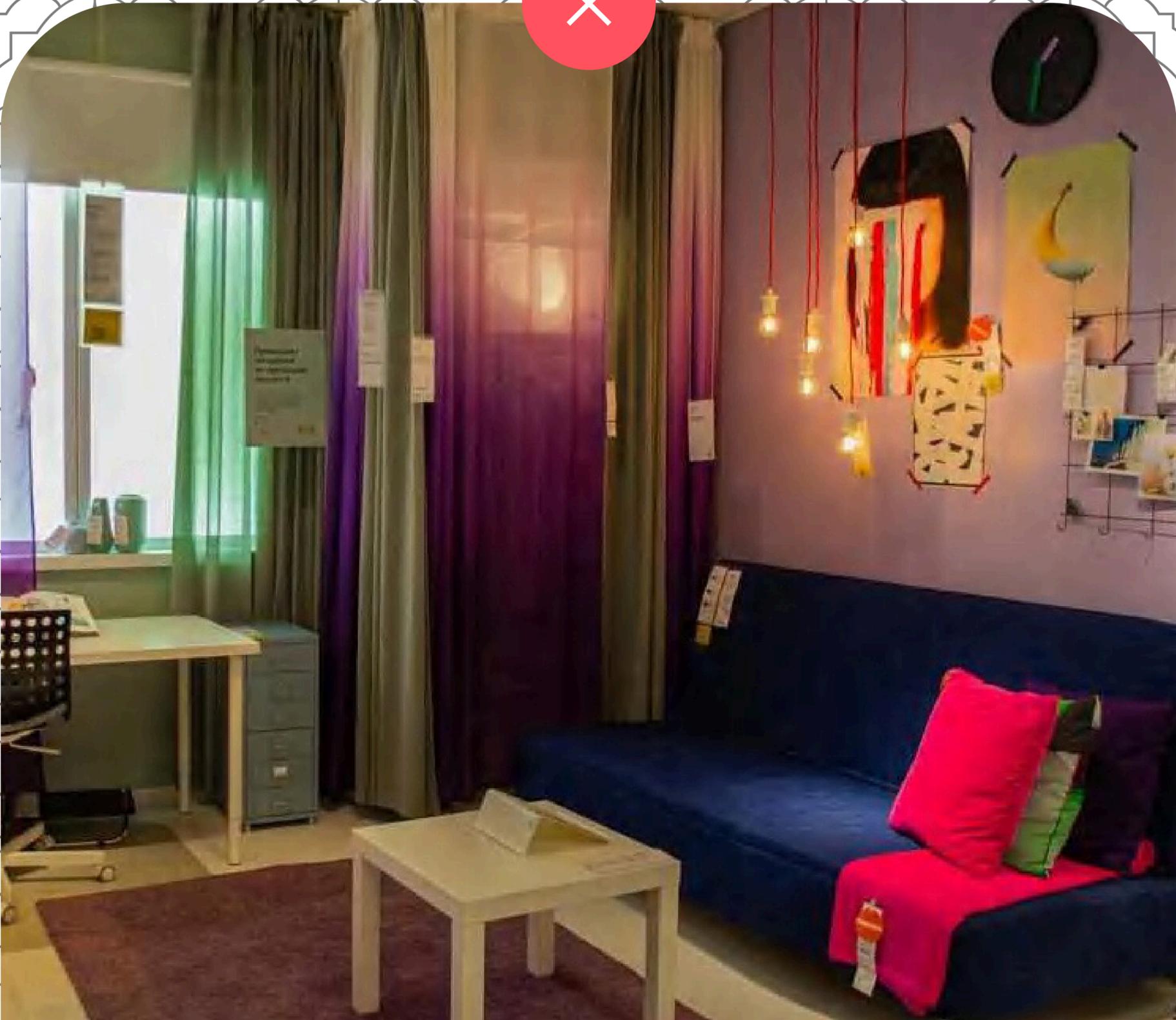
LEARN THE ART OF LAYERED LIGHTING



Layered lighting is the way to go. Brighten up the kitchen with warm yellow task lights, while a large chandelier works best in the living room. Cove lights can help complement the look. And in a bedroom, have mood lighting to help you relax while you also have reading lights by the bed and spot lights for your dressing area.

#5

Too Many Accents and No Focus



Too many accents or statement elements will most certainly ruin your decor! By definition, an accent wall is the wall that is supposed to be the focal point of the room. So when you have too many focal points, nothing draws your eye. These are classic examples of bad interior design. Also, if you are using rich or deep colours for your accent walls, your room will look darker than usual.

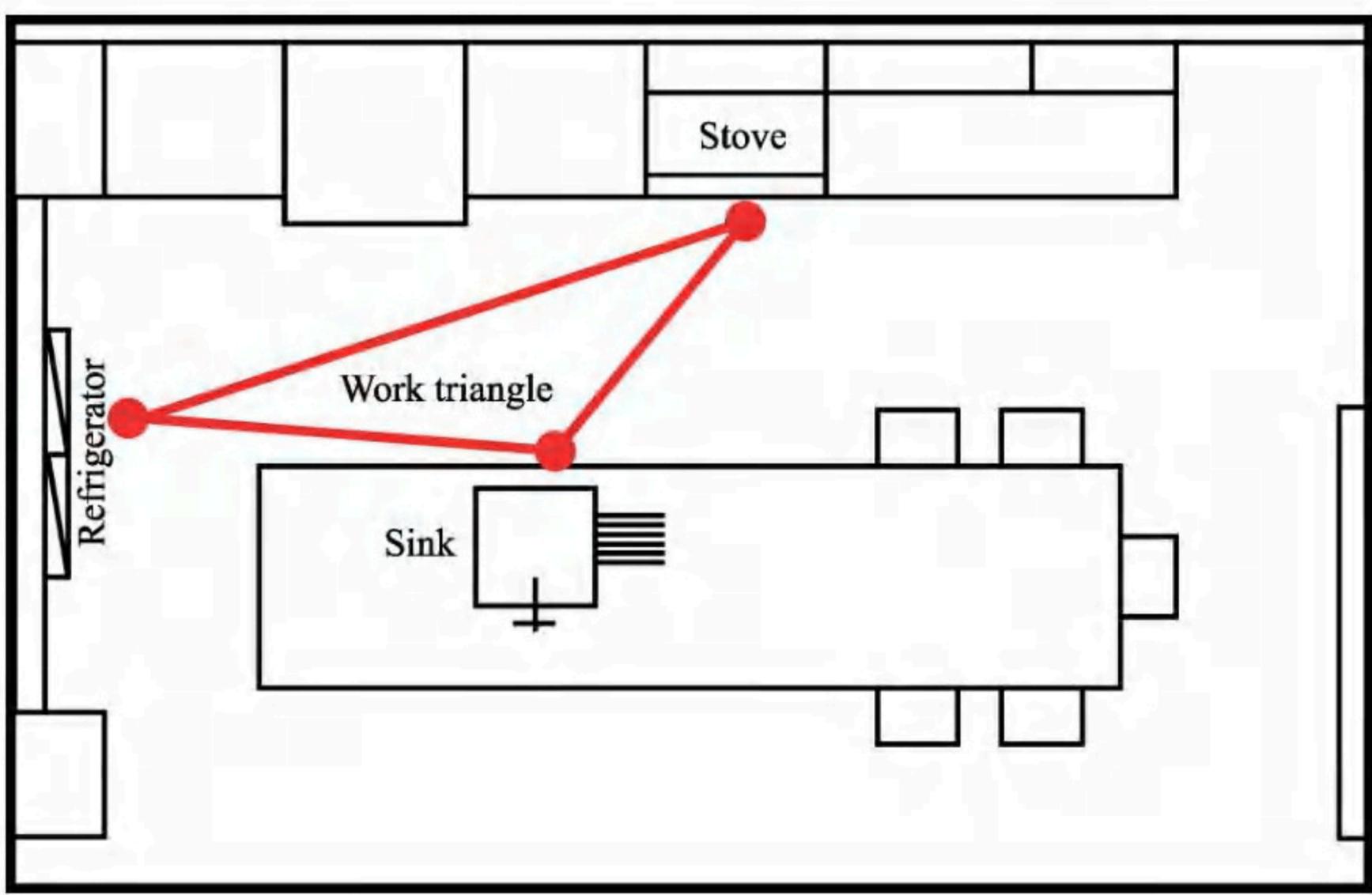
THE FIX:
FIND ONE THING TO FOCUS ON



It is the question of asking yourself, how much is too much? Ideally, an average-sized room should not have more than one accent wall because it defeats the purpose of being an 'accent.' To avoid such interior design mistakes for larger rooms including massive living areas, you can break up the space using a combination of smaller accent walls.

BONUS

The worst kitchen design mistake



The work triangle in a kitchen, or the golden triangle as it's often called, comprises the hob, the sink and the refrigerator. According to kitchen design experts, these three elements in a kitchen should form an equidistant triangle. This basically makes a kitchen convenient to use. If this is not the case, you'll see that the effort involved in cooking will be much more.

THE FIX: FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE

You cannot possibly move your sink but it is possible to move the hob (unless it's inbuilt) and refrigerator. So we suggest you move things around a little to get the closest possible version of the golden triangle. And the next time you redo your kitchen, keep this thumb rule at the core of your design.

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