NEW HOMES & CONDOS

Five must-keep design resolutions



MELISSA DAVIS

THE INCOME RENOVATOR

It's been 2016 for less than a month which statistically means 92% of us have already broken our resolutions or will do by month's end.

I'd like to have a little chat about your relationship with your home this year but don't fret, I'll go easy on you.

This is about taking a proactive approach to living a fuller more rewarding life at home. If it takes the next 12 months to work through these improvements, that's perfectly fine. Progress is progress.

Here are my top 5 resolu-

tions to improve your home, and the relationships that occur within.

1. Eat out less. It's so easy to say we don't have time to cook at home, but the truth is it usually comes down to wanting the experience a restaurant offers.

Work to create a kitchen you enjoy being in and a dining room designed for entertaining. Additions like a well-worn table sends the message guests can put their elbows up and pour their own wine refills.

Indulging in kitchen gadgets or splurging on the lat-

est steam oven will also make the nightly tasks more fun and help appease the foodie in you, at home.

2. Finish what you started. There is a DIYer in every family, and I applaud you, but it's time for some tough love with all those unfinished home improvements.

Decide what you can complete on your own within the next three months and either hire out the rest or abandon them completely until you're able to commit the resources be it your time or money.

We call drywall dust, divorce dust' in the construction industry. Renovations, the mess, and lack of a foreseeable conclusion are simply too much for most of us. It's time to move forward!

3. Spend more time together. Set yourself up for success and look at your home through a more emotional lens. If you dream of more snuggly movie nights, make sure you have a nice deep sofa, room enough for two.

Capturing those important moments with your kids, might start by creating a homework spot in the kitchen that lets you prep dinner and chat at the same time.

4. Stop taking work to bed. We're all guilty of taking our work to bed for another hour or two on our laptops. This is a seemingly innocent behavior but you'd be surprised to learn just how impactful this can be on both our sleep patterns and relationship with our bedroom.

Creating a calm sanctuary with good quality sheets, blackout shades and generally an environment designed for peaceful slumber can help realign our focus come nightfall.

5. Be brave. Design trend reports are inundating you with shades of white right now. Neutrals for resale and ROI are important but so too is express-



Design a kitchen you enjoy being in and where guests can put their elbows up and pour their own wine refills.

For 2016, designer
Melissa Davis is challenging
homeowners to think
about how to improve their
relationship with their homes.

ing your own style.

Take it one project at a time and start investing in bold and personal design elements. Paint, furniture, lighting, hardware and art are easy to change and great places to start flexing your creative bone.

Our homes are the one place we can truly control every aspect, tailoring them to our wants and needs.

Think about how to improve your relationship with your home and resolve to do it in 2016. Perhaps that may even include hiring someone like me to make it all happen!

 Melissa Davis is a celebrity designer well-known for appearances and her creative work on several HGTV programs. For more information, visit www.melissadavis.com.

Come meet and bring your kitchen and design questions to Melissa Davis at the Interior Design Show this Saturday, Jan. 23 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Blanco booth #706.



Shades of white are on-trend right now and good for resale but don't forget to express your own style.



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