



Chairs designed by Elnaz Namaki

DESIGNERS CORNER

Bringing Hygge Into Your Home

The Scandinavian concept is all about plush textures and neutral tones

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Designer's Corner



Each week Mansion Global tackles a design topic with an elite group of designers from around the world who work on luxury properties. This week we look at the how to make translate the Danish idea of Hygge into your

living space.

Soft blankets, a warm fire, a big comfy sweater—the Danish concept of "Hygge" is about complete coziness.

You've undoubtedly heard of the idea, as it's been pervading our collective consciousness for the last several years. For Danes, Hygge is a way of life that plays out most notably in their style of décor—be it plush textures, neutral tones, or natural materials.

While this aesthetic is a signature in Scandinavia, the look and feel is also becoming popular in other parts of the globe, where cultural reinterpretation sometimes takes hold.

"Hygge is a concept from the Scandinavian Nordic countries that involves both lifestyle, product design and interior design," said Leonora Sartori, Houzz Italy editor. "We've seen it spread all over Europe in the last two years and raised lots of interest among our non-Nordic and Mediterranean communities on Houzz, including Italy. It's a way of thinking (family is important; not rushing is important; escaping the multitasking mind-set and embracing a more meditative and cozy approach to everyday life) that reflects in design and domestic choices."

Here, advice from design pros across the globe on how to "Hygge" your home.

Soft Meets Splashy

"Every space should make you feel cozy and at home, while well-designed, authentic and peaceful. Hygge is also about connecting with nature, so muted earth tones are a great base for any color scheme. However, you need to layer this with pops of color or pattern so that the space doesn't feel cold or flat. Color and patterns help personalize each space and appeal to our senses, while the earth tone base creates a calm and peaceful ambience.

"Mixing old and new creates the feeling of Hygge—we love mixing contemporary furniture with antiques and vintage finds to create depth and character. The Hygge philosophy is about less is more and quality over quantity, so you are better off investing in key high-quality pieces of furniture with real craftsmanship, which are long lasting and finer quality.

"Materials and surfaces draw on nature so using wood and lots of wool, cashmere and sheepskin are key. We used shearling as the core material of our Luuna Collection because it provides an extra layer of Hygge connecting with our skin as an organic texture, making you feel cozy and comforted. Cushions and blankets are essential to any Hygge household for coziness and comfort. Every home needs a 'hygge-krog,' which translates as a nook or cozy spot filled with lots of cushions and blankets.



A Luuna Collection plush pink shearling chair and ottoman designed by Elnaz Namaki embody the cozy life in this quaint living space.
Elnaz Namaki Studio

—Elnaz Namaki of London-based Elnaz Namaki Studio

Minimal Meets Moody

"White and pastel palettes common in Hygge design are the number one trend among the most-saved photos in bathrooms and kitchens on Houzz Italy. These colors are delicate and relaxing and do not distract us from the important things in life and support us in finding balance.

"Natural materials, particularly wood, which is the most loved and evergreen, are regaining popularity as a trend among materials our community chooses for their home.

"The Hygge style is more focused on decluttering your home to have enough space. The idea is that your home should not interfere with you but leave you free, so less is always more, because space at home brings about more mindspace.

"This design style embraces a more relaxed lighting setup rather than anything too stark. Candles at the window are a must, as they create a relaxing personal indoor landscape. In Italy, we have a different lighting situation, as our winters are not as dramatically dark as in the Nordic countries. Our Houzz community uses candles as aesthetic accessories and have been increasingly embracing them more recently."

—Leonora Sartori, Houzz Italy editor

Time-Worn Meets Tactile

"In the context of environmental design, the term 'Hygge' lives right next door to the term 'spiritual.' They aren't synonymous, but they are equally subjective. I could find Hygge laying at the foot of a wood-burning fireplace on a designer alpaca rug, or by simply adjusting the thermostat.

"Our clients feel coziest when they settle into a space that shows evidence of thought and continuity in approach from the outer extents of the lot line all the way down to the linens.

"I would listen carefully to what your heart tells you. While design rationale is important, you need to make room for pure artistic expression.

"Don't worry about style; worry about composition. Furniture should be a lifetime purchase. Build your collection. If it is personal, it will be cozy.

"Accessories like pillows and blankets should be tactile, and expressive, and collected with the intention of lasting a generation, at least.

"Consider natural light first. When selecting fixtures, if you use LEDs, invest in quality for your health. Pendants, sconces and floor lamps will give you a much more personal experience than recessed overhead lighting."



Layers of merino wool comprise an ottoman and side table designed by Jeffrey Forrest of STACKLAB and demonstrates that felt furniture is the ultimate in coziness.

STACKLAB

—Canadian designer Jeffrey Forrest, Jeffrey founder of STACKLAB

Style Meets Comfort

"I use a lot of whites, greys, beiges and taupe; I find these colors incredibly soothing and harmonious and they are the perfect base to any design.

"It's all about finding that harmony between style and comfort. I have always been a big fan of open-plan areas, as they create such scope for flowing design, and the light is usually fantastic.

"When designing, materials and textures are extremely important to me. It adds a new dimension to the room and to your mood. Linen, velvets and leathers are my favorites. You can combine these in so many ways to add depth and sensuality to a room. They really contribute to the feeling of comfort. From the silky soft linens, pillows, robes and slippers, all were carefully selected to ensure extreme comfort.

"Lighting is all about balance. Lighting creates mood, and space is achieved through paying attention to how furniture is positioned. So, you should firstly look at your furniture placement and think practically about what needs light functionally. Once you've established this, then you can begin to think about ambiance"

—South African designer **Kelly Hoppen** of **Kelly Hoppen Interiors**