



# DESIGN DIGEST

Be it a stylish console, a fabulous bed, a sturdy bench or the perfect accent chair, our expert makes a list of 10 must-have furniture pieces no well dressed home should do without

BY SHAILJA AWASTHI

The interiors of a home are an extension of the owner's personality. A home is not just four walls with some doors and windows. It is made up of every single piece of art, furniture, upholstery, tapestry, patterns, textures that come together in the most fantastic and individualistic ways. Furniture, in particular is the true star in a home. So, here is a list of 10 essential furniture pieces that every home needs.

## 1. The Right Bed

An average person sleeps eight hours a day, which implies we sleep for 2,29,961 hours in a lifetime; this makes the bed a very important piece of furniture. The size of the bed should be appropriate to the user. For instance, if children will use the bedroom, then the beds should be right for their size. Bed heights not only impact the look and feel but also the health of the person. High beds need a step stool to get into them, while low-height beds, making cleaning under them a tough task. Some beds are too low, while some are high, so find one that suits your needs and the size of the room. In the master bedroom go for either a queen or king size bed. The material of the bed should also resonate with the theme. Wood, brass, stainless steel, bamboo or cane are some good options. Do not just get a bed because of how it looks and how much it is. Make sure that it is of good quality. A good ergonomic mattress is an integral part of a great bed.

## 2. Foyer Console

The foyer is a transitory spot from the outside to the inside. It is where guests can be swept off their feet. The foyer forms the gateway for the rest of the home. This is the right place to display a sophisticated console table, a background mirror, a character inducing painting or sculpture, or a beautifully tiled floor with a mood uplifting colour palette. Further many console tables come with sleek storage. Without a foyer console, the entrance of any house is incomplete.

## 3. Bedroom Bench

Very often we find bedrooms with just a bed and a few seats. The bench at the end of the bed gives a nice feel to an otherwise abrupt ending of the bed. It adds softness to the biggest structure—the bed. Most importantly, it gives you a

### SLEEP ON IT

This bed from Ansavv's Marcelo bedroom range is inspired by Turkish furniture (top, left); a foyer console in a Bangalore home designed by Stories (left)







place to keep a folded bedspread or coverlet when the bed is being used or a place to hold a robe. It also helps as a seat when putting on shoes or clothing if your mattress height is too high or too soft. And if you have a toddler running in the room, it saves your freshly made bed from being rumpled.

#### 4. Accent Seat

Large size or brightly coloured seats are a hot favourite. They give an understated opulence to the decor of any home. These also add colour, definition, and drama to an interior space. If you want to stand out, choose a bold piece with upholstery in a striking colour. You can also opt for an accent chair from a different era from the rest of the furniture to create a strong contrast. Try mixing two contrasting (not clashing) styles to create dramatically amazing outcomes. For example, a Victorian chair in a modern scheme adds a strong character to the vibe of the place.

#### 5. Dining Table

The dining is truly the heart of a home, bringing everyone together. So, a dining table gives one an opportunity

#### CHOOSE WISELY

Bedroom bench in a home styled by design studio Stories (above); a yellow accent chair from furniture studio Casa Pop (right)







## SLEEK PICKS

A brass and wood side tables from furniture brand Inhabit; a sleek dining table in a Bangalore home from Stories (below)

to make a big personal statement in a home. From wood, glass and metal to stone with inlay, there are so many options when it comes to selecting the materials. You can also play with size and shape.

### 6. Side Tables

It is a good idea to have side tables close to sofas, independent chairs or beds in order to provide that extra base when reaching out to a coffee table is difficult. To make these side tables a little more interesting explore flea markets or thrift stores for vintage finds. The idea is not just to have function but also something that looks beautiful.

### 7. Dressing Table

A well built dressing table eases

the burden of a bedroom.

Designed to help you groom in comfort, a bedroom is incomplete without it. The dressing table includes drawers where items such as makeup boxes, perfumes, watches, belts, earrings, lipsticks and lingerie can be stored here instead of a huge wardrobe where these things tend to get difficult to find. The best part, there are different types available in the market to suit your budget, style and size preferences.

### 8. TV Console

Considering the infiltration of gadgets and gizmos in our daily lives, it is critical to have an organised TV console. A grand TV is visible in everyone's home but along with it comes a deluge of wires,







equipment and boxes. A well thought through TV unit not only looks opulent but also serves the purpose of fitting aesthetically and functionally all the elements like set top boxes, routers, Xbox, sound bars, woofers and the like with the wires. It is important to give a nice feel to this mega size interior structure which ends up forming a focal wall of living areas and family rooms.

## 9. Centre Table

Big centre tables are trending. The larger the centre table can be, the better it is. This helps make room for all that a table needs to accommodate. While people generally think it is better to use a small table if there is a space constraint, in reality big centre tables actually help make the room appear larger. Remember, the more monolithic the table is, the more walking space one can get without sacrificing the top surface area.

## 10. Crockery unit

A crockery unit is one of the oldest participants in a home. It feels like a nostalgic piece from the past. The formal boundaries are blending and there is more approachability in personal spaces. Therefore, it is important that the crockery unit is more like a console or an art piece by itself rather than a display unit from the past.



## ART OF LIVING

A crockery unit should be like a work of art (top, left); a centre table from Inhabit (above)



Shailja Awasthi is the founder of Stories, a space design firm in Bangalore. Her work blends nature, science, art and mythology. [www.storiesdesignstudio.in](http://www.storiesdesignstudio.in)