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Putting a Spin on Neutrals

—By **Stephanie Insolia**

Subtle, sun-gathering neutral walls enhance the beauty of your precious objects

The austere elegance, the almost militaristic streamlining effect, achieved through the use of a neutral color scheme makes a lasting impression. The shell of your home should be as natural and as integral a part of the whole as trees are a part of the forest. This approach to décor requires an essential discipline: valuing the expression of unwavering simplicity over ostentation. Even more handsome and brilliant is the application of extreme minimalism to the shell.

The most important element of design in one's home is the continuous thread that stretches from room to room. Neutral walls provide a light, airy backdrop against which you can introduce a multitude of color palettes. Neutrals provide a subtle framework for the colors brought into the space through furnishings and art. (The neutral approach is a practical one: Furniture and art are easier to change than wall coverings.) Part of the allure of applying neutral colors is the fact that they allow different levels of light to showcase the room's various architectural elements: Neutrals reflect the changes in light within a room all day long.

Believe it or not, using neutrals involves an abundance of creativity. The most basic way to create a hue is to add varying amounts of white to a color pigment. This, however, is not the only way. Another approach is to introduce a neutral color through texture. Textures brilliantly add warmth to the room and raise the level of contrast between the furnishings and the shell of your home. Therefore, each time a color is introduced through fabrics and art, the neutral wall echoes and magnifies the color, rather than competing with it.

below:
A new way to white:
Fantastic neutral
leathers from Edelman
Leather.



Photo courtesy of Edelman Leather