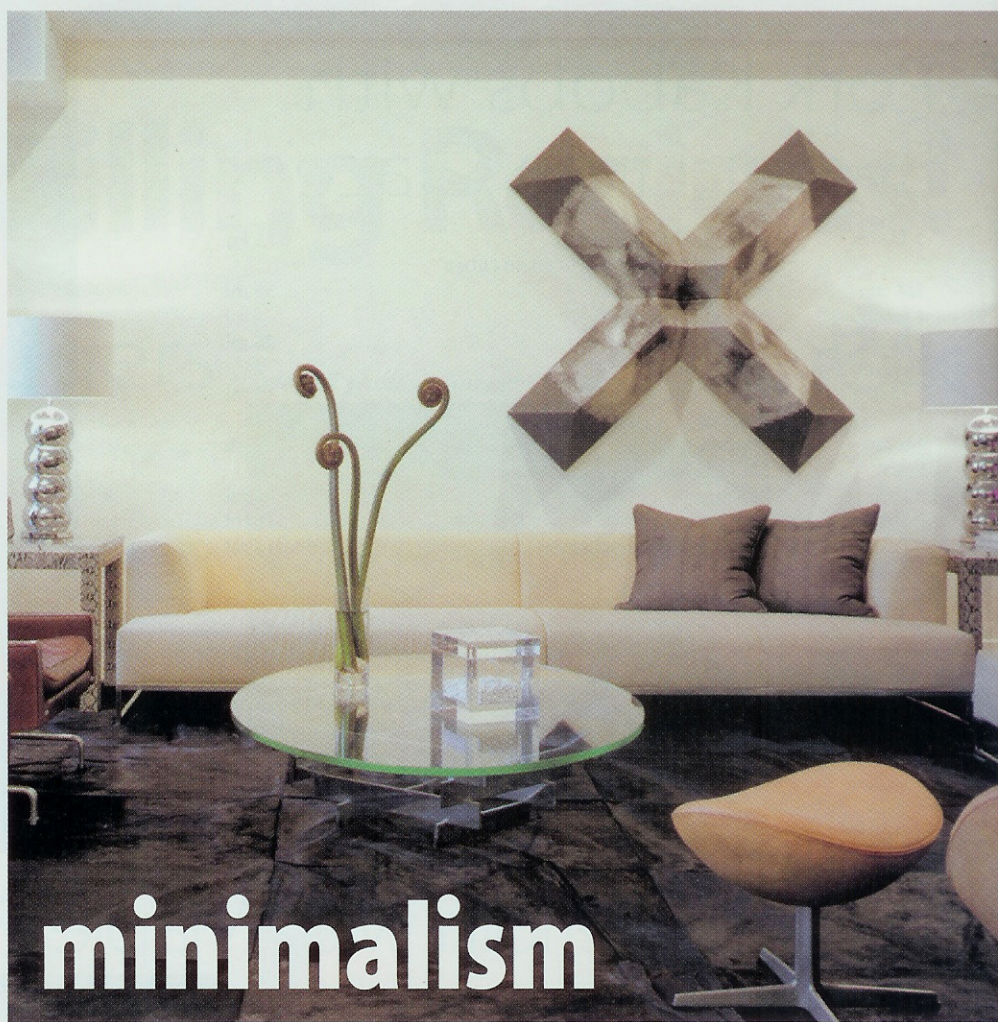




Sheila Hahn

Getting the MOST out of



most important elements in achieving a true 'minimalist' look while creating the illusion of more space.

In addition, minimalism doesn't mean boring. Although wall colors tend to be neutral, deeper or brighter accent colors can be used to draw the eye to specific elements in the room. An effective use of color will create dramatic contrast and add life to your room. The purpose of using neutral colors (or variations of white) is to create a 'blank canvas' backdrop that will help to achieve the feeling of spaciousness. When working with color, the key is to determine the proper combination. For instance, lighter colored sofas look wonderful when in contrast with dark wooden floors.

When thinking about furniture placement, keep in mind that it must also be kept to a minimum. Although large overstuffed sofas tend to look out of place in this environment, it's important to remember that rooms must also be com-

fortable. A well-designed sofa or chair will offer both, providing you with style and comfort.

Today, minimalists not only favor clean lines in furniture, but also opt for sleek household appliances. Fridges look wonderful concealed behind kitchen cabinetry and the exciting new digital age offers automated features to make your life just that much easier. Streamlined cabinetry and functional workspaces are definitely great qualities of a contemporary kitchen.

No matter what decorating style you prefer, there's ways to incorporate some of the theories of minimalism in your home. By reducing the amount of clutter and preparing a functional storage plan, the time you spend at home will prove to be more enjoyable and restful. **R**

E-mail your decorating questions and photos to studio180@shaw.ca or visit website www.studio180.biz.