

A SINGLE WOMAN'S GUIDE TO

# CREATING YOUR FUTURE HOME NOW



*by Lilli Blackmore*

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# Introduction

*"How those young women enjoyed putting their nest together. As Phillipa said, it was almost as good as getting married. You had the fun of homemaking without the bother of a husband."*

*- L. M. Montgomery, Anne of the Island*

## WHY DOES HOME DESIGN MATTER?

If you've downloaded this ebook, you probably have some interest in creating your dream home. But you may also be wondering, "Why is working on my dream home so important? Shouldn't I, as a single, childfree woman, be focused more on improving my love life? What about my career? Is redesigning my apartment a good use of my time and energy? In the grand scheme of things, is it important at all?"

Well, according to the research, yes.

Over half of Americans are unhappy at work, where we spend most of our conscious hours. When life outside the home is stressful or even depressing, those precious hours you spend at home need to be restorative and inspiring. That's why when it comes to our overall wellness, the quality of the home we live in is almost as important as the type of food we eat.



No one likes coming home to bare walls, a bland kitchen, and a lackluster bedroom. And yet so many of us who are lucky enough to have our own place continue to live this way. It's not that we're stuck for ideas. Most of us have Pinterest boards filled with future home ideas. Or else we look wistfully at Pottery Barn catalogs, imagining what we would do if we had the freedom to decorate our home.

Sadly, some of us hold onto the internalized belief that picturesque homes and themed bedrooms are for stay-at-home moms, not single, childfree women. And even those of us who don't buy into that idea let the excuses of "I don't have the time," "I don't have the money," or "I'm only renting, so there's no reason to waste the energy." And so the single women who are best able to create a dream home put it off, sometimes forever.

*Put your Pinterest boards to work, no matter where you happen to be living right now.*



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS MINI-EBOOK

This booklet will show you why living in a home you love is so important, why you aren't doing it, and how to start doing it.

First, I'm going to look at the fact that far too many women spend their single years waiting. Then, I'm going to address the top three excuses single women use to justify living in a 'waiting room' home. These are:

1. "I'm not living in a house of my own."
2. "I don't have the money to redecorate."
3. "I don't have time to improve my living space."

Ready? Let's dive in.

# What Are You Waiting For?

*"Stop waiting for love and start living."*

*- Mandy Hale, author of Beautiful Uncertainty*

## **STOP WAITING. START CREATING.**

If you take one piece of advice away from this ebook, I hope it's this : **Stop waiting for the future.**

One of the most self-defeating things we single women can do is to put off doing the things we want because we think we need to wait for someone else. You know what I mean. You may have a Pinterest board bursting with great bedroom ideas (or even nursery ideas), fun birthday parties for kids, and so on. But you don't do them because you think you need to wait until you have a spouse or a baby. We're conditioned to think this way, but it's total nonsense.

**You do not need a baby to redecorate the spare bedroom in a cute woodland animal theme.**

You don't need to wait for a partner to fill your bedroom with romantic Indian décor. And in fact, you really shouldn't wait.



*Wouldn't it be better to give yourself to have the bedroom theme you wanted as a kid?*

Your future partner may not want an Indian style bedroom, and your future baby may not like your interior design choices when she's old enough to talk.

When you wait for another person to come along and be your excuse to do what you want, you run the risk of making them put up with something they don't like, instead of just enjoying it yourself when you had the opportunity. Your future partner may have their own ideas about how your bedroom/kitchen/bathroom should look. So bask in the delight of having everything exactly how you want it before they show up in your life.

## ENJOY THE PERKS OF BEING A GROWN-UP

And, if you finally have a little girl onto whom you can foist your love of mermaids, you can bet she'll be more interested in Thomas the Tank Engine. Likewise, if you're waiting for a baby boy to do a superhero room, you'd better believe he'll want dinosaurs. And hey, if you're the mom, you can make your future kids have whatever theme you want. But wouldn't it be better for everyone if you simply allowed yourself to have the bedroom theme you wanted as a kid?

Would you feel silly having a *Where The Wild Things Are* bedroom? Well you shouldn't. You're a grown-up – you finally get to do whatever you want. Break the cycle of parental vicariousness by being kind to yourself now and styling your bedroom however you damn well please.





# You're Living in Your Dream Home

*"The longer you wait for the future, the shorter it will be."*

*- Loesje*

## NO HOUSE? NO PROBLEM.

*"But I'm renting."*

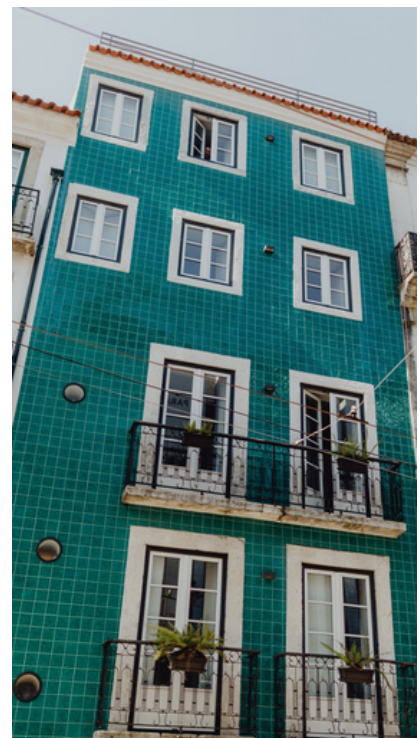
*"I don't own a home."*

*"This isn't where I want to stay forever."*

Sound familiar? The “but I'm renting” excuses just don't stand up to scrutiny. This series of excuses typically manifests in two defeatist ideas :

1. “I can't make any significant changes due to the terms of my lease.”
2. "Why bother putting work into creating a home that I'm just going to leave?"

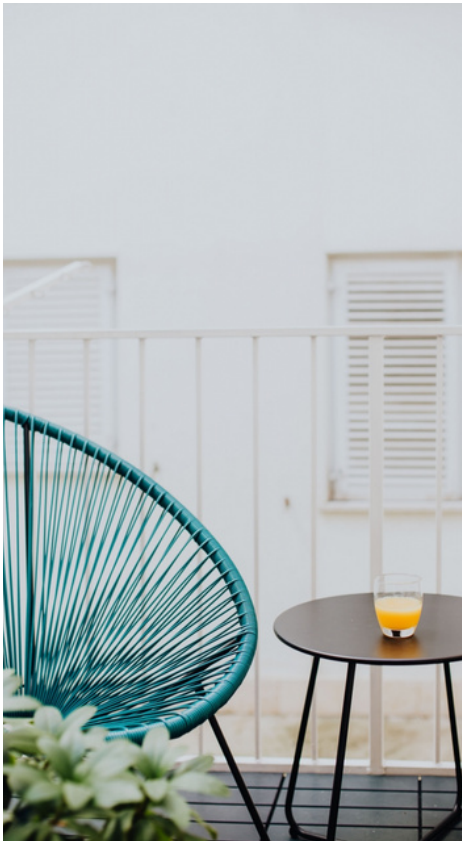
Let's start with the first one. With the rise in renters in the US, retailers are creating more innovative, temporary décor products. You can keep your security deposit and take your dream home with you when you leave. These products don't damage walls or permanent fixtures, and you can easily relocate them to your long-term home once it arises.



What about the apparent folly of designing a dream home that isn't long-term?

This is your home right now, and you deserve a dream home wherever you're at. So what if you only live in your apartment a year, or two years, or five? Don't wait. Get into the habit of making a home wherever you're at. Unless you're painting a mural or installing another bathroom, it's not like you're going to leave your hard work behind. Nearly everything you purchase to decorate your house you can bring with you when you leave.

*You deserve a  
dream home  
wherever  
you're at.*



## **SCIENCE SUPPORTS CREATING YOUR DREAM HOME NOW**

While we're on the topic of renting versus owning, it's worth noting that a 2011 study found that women homeowners showed no greater levels of happiness than women renters, but they did show lower levels of satisfaction in their lives.

So, putting off the dream until you own a home may lessen your enjoyment of the moment without giving you any long-term benefit.



# Finding the Funds for Interior Design

*"Sometimes, when you make the most out of what you have, it turns out being a lot more than you ever imagined."*

*- Susan Gale*

## CHIC RESULTS ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET

If you're still with me at this point, you may be thinking, "Okay, I'm convinced. I'd like to be living in my dream home. But I'm poor. How am I supposed to 'create my future home now' when I don't have the money needed to complete my vision?"

That's a simple answer. Be flexible. Allow yourself to compromise to give yourself the best home you can in your current situation.

Example: "I don't have the money my dreams require."

That's okay. You don't need to run out to the home improvement store and max out all your credit cards to start transforming your home into a palace.

Do a little less than your full-scale dream requires. Use less expensive materials than you'd use if you had a limitless income.

Start with one room and work your way on as time progresses and your savings increase.



And, if you're wondering, "Why spend the money on that at all when I could be saving for an actual dream house with a mortgage and white picket fence," consider this:

Psychology professor and author Elizabeth Dunn points out that the sacrifices made to facilitate long-term goals, such as buying a house, can be detrimental to one's overall happiness. Hers and other research suggests that 'smart' spending isn't necessarily about making that one big investment, but rather in investing in experiences that bring you happiness.

This should, of course, include the experience of coming home from work to an inviting atmosphere. Or, if you work at home, creating a comfortable and energizing workspace.



# Making the Time to Redesign

*"You will never find time for anything. If you want time, you must make it."*

*- Charles Buxton*

## TOO BUSY? TOO BAD.

Another common excuse is, "I don't have the time that all of my DIY projects are going to take, and I hate leaving things half-finished."

If you're swamped with work or other responsibilities, don't be afraid to make a few compromises between your desire and your time. For instance, if you want a faux stone wall and don't have the time to adhere a couple hundred high relief faux bricks, settle for some realistic brick print wallpaper. Is it 100% what you had in mind? Probably not. Is it 100 times better than a plain white wall? Heck yes.







Besides getting a lovelier home, there's another advantage to doing smaller, more manageable home improvement projects.

Researchers at UCLA found that the more unfinished projects or plans homeowners saw around them, the less happy they were with their home.

So give yourself the best of both worlds by making your improvements in time-manageable chunks.



# Final Tips

*“The purpose of life, after all, is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

## BEFORE YOU GO CREATE YOUR DREAM HOME...

If you've decided to stop waiting, stop making excuses, and start creating your future dream home now, here are a few final tips for the road.

### 1. Budget

If you're like me, you're prone to either going way over budget or scrimping and coming out way under (i.e., settling for a silk flower in a vase instead of that floral centerpiece you wanted). The best solution to this I've found is to set a fixed budget and use it all. No more, and no less.

This type of restriction will force you to be more creative, and will probably get you a lot more excited than just having some hazy idea of how much you can spend on something.



## 2. Schedule

And while we're at it, let's talk about a time budget as well. Setting a deadline will help you make the decisions you need to in order to get your projects done. It's far too easy to let something stretch out forever, especially if time is a constraint for you. Instead, sit down, plot out a reasonable amount of time to get things done, then double that. Divide up the work over the days on your calendar, and stick to it.

If you finish early, awesome! If you're starting to feel crunched, decide to cut back on a detail or two, allow things to remain without being totally perfect, or scale the project back a bit. This is all about letting yourself have and enjoy your dream home, remember. Having a finished, though not 100% accurate project is better than a perfect fraction of an unfinished project.



## 3. Enjoy

As you go about creating your dream home, remember the old adage “getting there is half the fun.” Sure, the ultimate goal may be for you to sit back and bask in the beauty of your house of dreams, but that doesn't mean you can't (and shouldn't) enjoy the process of getting there. You're creating your home! This is a future beloved memory, so enjoy it while it's here.



# Acknowledgements

## BEFORE YOU GO CREATE YOUR DREAM HOME...

I want to thank Kaboompics for providing the beautiful images for this mini ebook. You can visit their gallery by going to [kaboompics.com](https://kaboompics.com).

I also want to thank YOU for taking the time to read this mini ebook. One of the best ways to invest in yourself and your own happiness is to invest in your surroundings. You're off to a great start.

If you want more resources like this, please visit [theamericianspinner.com](https://theamericianspinner.com).

