



Alykhan Velji Designs

REFINED *Rustic*

HOW TO CREATE THE LOOK FOR LESS

ALY VELJI

The design for this space in a private estate home was inspired by the look of “refined rustic.” To begin, we went with an overall neutral esthetic for the finishes of the space. White shaker cabinetry, natural oak floors and a dark island ground the space. Additions of warm leathers, natural materials such as linen, and



Harlanda Sofa, Ikea,
\$1,189

refined light fixtures and accents all work together to create a space that is warm and inviting.

A large sectional is key to entertaining as it helps to create ample seating and makes for a more casual area. Two accent chairs in leather add warmth and work well with the dark fireplace, while the large traditional-style rug adds some subtle texture in the space. Round coffee tables and end tables break up the hard lines in the area, and greenery and light tones in the accent pillows add softness.

With this being a new build, costs were high with finishing and furniture, however, there are always ways to get the look for less without sacrificing style. Here are the key design components with tips for saving money.

SOFA

Keeping it neutral is the best way to go. Think of greys or creams, which work with any colour palette. This allows you to change up your look at any time without having to break the bank. This piece is super comfortable and versatile enough to work in any

interior. Sofas are where it is worth spending money. Think of it as an investment in comfort — you are going to be using this every day, and you want something that will last and stand the test of time.

ACCENT CHAIR

Accent chairs are the unsung heroes of the design world. They add so much to a space, and these leather tufted style chairs add a casual feeling to the space. These would also be perfect in a small space as they are armless and don't take up much visual space. The brass metal base adds a little hint of the refined.

Maxwell tufted
accent chair,
Structure,
\$189



Varennes rug,
Urban Barn, \$399

AREA RUG

Mixing styles is something I do in every design. I like how it makes a space feel more curated. Rugs can sometimes get pricey, especially when you get into the handknotted and wools, however, this one is at a great price point and looks fabulous. The gorgeous tones in blues and terracotta are perfect for this look.

Polly Stool,
Structure,
\$99





Left to right: Black and white tassel throw, HomeSense, \$24.99; Ingalill, Ikea, \$5.99; Aina Cushion Cover, Ikea, \$9.99; Ispigg cushion cover, Ikea, \$7.99; black and white cushion with ochre tassels, HomeSense, \$29

PILLOWS/BLANKETS

Accent pillows are an excellent way to layer fabrics in a space. I love mixing patterns, and for this look, we went with more natural tones such as linens, creams, soft blues and tribal patterns. Mix it up and have fun.

Asveig Cushion Cover, IKEA, \$9.99

Industrial living room, HomeSense, \$29.99

TABLES

In our space, we chose marble-topped tables for the side tables, which can get up there in cost. Round side tables are great because they help to break up all the squareness of the room and help to add softness to the space. I also find that they are more versatile and can be moved around easily to accommodate larger parties.



Ora Accent Table, Urban Barn, \$219

ACCESSORIES/PLANTS

Greenery always helps to pull a space together. I try to have fresh greens or plants in every space to give the feeling of more life. Whether you go with real or faux, the trick is to have something that will work scale-wise in the space. A large tropical plant helps fill space in an empty corner.



Kani fiddle tree potted, Urban Barn, \$149

LIGHTING

Lighting is crucial when it comes to design. We went with brass lantern-style pendants above the island for something more refined. I think a black lantern style light fixture could also work in a space like this to bring in a little more of an industrial edge to the space.

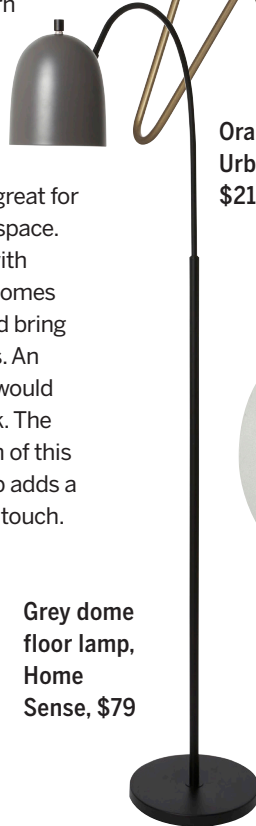
Task lighting like a table or floor lamp is great for layering lighting in a space. Think about going with simplicity when it comes to a table lamp and bring in brass elements. An arch floor lamp would also do the trick. The simple form of this floor lamp adds a modern touch.



Pendant, Robinson (Matteo), \$398



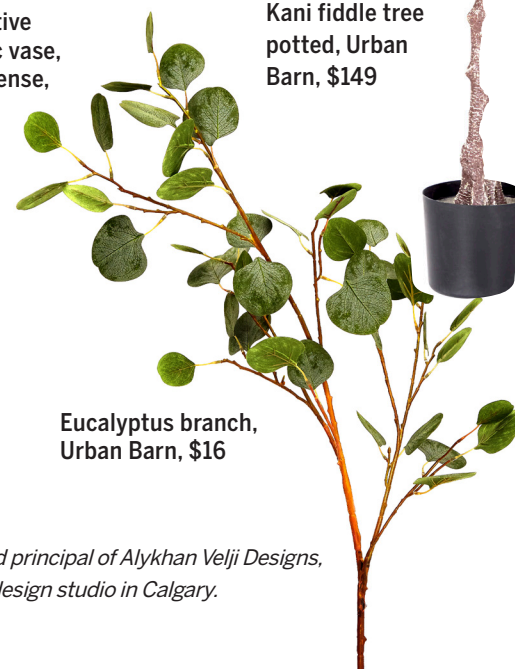
Matte brass task lamp, HomeSense \$29



Grey dome floor lamp, Home Sense, \$79



Decorative ceramic vase, HomeSense, \$16.99



Eucalyptus branch, Urban Barn, \$16

Alykhan Velji is the founder and principal of Alykhan Velji Designs, a residential and commercial design studio in Calgary.