

WANT A FUNCTIONAL AND BEAUTIFUL HOME?

5 STEPS TO A  
**CASUAL,  
ELEGANT  
STYLE**



# 5 Steps to a Casual, Elegant Style

MAISON *de* PAX

As a homeschooling mother of four, I understand the reality of a home: it is to be lived in, not looked at! On the other hand, as a firm believer in the power of beauty, my passion is to merge the lovely and the functional in a casually elegant way. I hope these tips help you to do the same in your home.

~Rachel Paxton

## TIP 1: Mix furniture styles

Casually elegant is a kind of paradox, isn't it? A combination of seemingly opposite things. So one of the best ways to start is to combine unexpected styles in your space.



Consider a super straight-lined sofa with an ornate brass table. Or a formal French dining table with a primitive, rustic bench. A little elegance. A little casual.

## Tip 2: Invest in quality over quantity

Forgive the clichés, but casual elegance is a matter of quality over quantity. A less is more mentality.



This can apply to both decorating and renovating your home. In home décor, prioritize the right sofa or sectional over all the smaller pieces. This doesn't mean you have to spend a lot (for example, we found our sofa at an outlet store for a steal!), but it does mean you spend the most time and focus on high quality staples.

In renovations, focus on simple, high quality built-in designs. If you are designing a kitchen, for example, consider balancing a less-expensive simple basic shaker style cabinet with real marble. Get kitchen design tips [here](#) and details on real marble [here](#).

And if you can invest a little sweat equity, focus on wall treatments like diy board and batten (tutorial [here](#)) that increase both the beauty and functionality of your home. Get more DIY project ideas [here](#).

## Tip 3: Layer in lots of texture

Casual is highly connected to cozy, and cozy is all about texture. Linen is a perfect option for a cozy yet elegant space, and bedding, sofas, and pillow covers are wonderful places for linen. You can also bring in nubby blankets, woven blinds, and baskets for even more texture. Don't forget the contrasting textures of wood and metal, too, to balance out the textiles.



Shop some of my favorite accents [here](#).



## Tip 4: Add vintage or antique accents

Whether it's rugs (see my full guide to buying affordable vintage rugs [here](#)), family heirlooms, or simply antique books or vintage art... there's a quality and richness to the things of ages past.



They bring a worn, comfortable character as well as a formality that we often don't find in modern pieces. The perfect combination for that casually elegant look.

## Tip 5: Leave open space

Whatever the size of your home, a casual space needs room to breathe. So don't fill every nook and cranny! Instead...

- keep open wall space (consider one large piece of artwork, rather than lots of small ones)
- leave room to walk around (no need to place furniture on every single wall)
- clear counter space (keep decorative items to a minimum on flat surfaces)
- consider a single large piece of furniture rather than lots of little ones (for plenty of seating but a more open feeling).



Just as the name would suggest, casually elegant spaces are a study in contrasts: balancing large-ticket items with more affordable ones, mixing old and new, layering textures but leaving spaces open... and ultimately finding the functional and beautiful balance in it all.