

Is Your House Really Your Home? Take This Quiz and Find Out

By Linda Ogier of Fox Copy

OK - so this isn't like a real quiz where you score points and lo and behold the truth about your relationship, sex-life, fashion style, money worries etc is miraculously revealed.

BUT, it is a questionnaire that will give you valuable insight into your feelings about where you live, how you can enhance your surroundings to suit you perfectly, and how you can really turn your house into a home.

PLUS, it will only take you 10 minutes. Not much time considering you get to delve into your subconscious, find out how to create the perfect home, and have some fun!

SO, get out a pen and jot down your answers to the following questions...

- What would you like to **feel** as you walk through the front door of your home?
- What words sum up what the word 'home' means to **you**? List 5.
- If you had to leave your home in an instant and could only take 6 items, what would they be and why?
- Is there a type of animal (apart from any of your pets), that you are particularly **drawn** to?
- What are the 3 pieces of furniture in your home that you love the most? Why do you love them?
- Are there any objects or furniture of any type in your home that you do not like or that make you feel uneasy? Be honest.
- Do you have any memories of previous places where you have lived (this includes your childhood), that stand out as particularly inviting?
- Do you have any favourite mythological symbols or creatures?
- Do you have any favourite religious symbols or pictures?
- Name 3 smells you think every home should have.
- Name 3 sounds you think every home should have.
- Which is your favourite room in your home and why?
- If you lived on a deserted island where **no-one else** could ever see your home, but you were magically able to build any type of home you wanted, with everything you ever desired inside - what would **your** fantasy home be like?

Now, think about your answers and how you can use them to create a home that's more suited to you.

For instance, you've identified the 3 pieces of furniture that mean the most to you, but are they a **feature** in your home?

Could they be the focal point of a room?

Make the most of what you truly adore.

You've identified objects you don't like, so now go ahead and **get rid of them.**

Keeping objects around you don't like means every time you look at them a **negative vibe** is projected into the room.

Yes, yes, I know that horrible vase Aunt Jean gave you was a wedding present, but honestly, if you don't like it, all you're going to do is curse Aunt Jean every time you look at it. Not the reaction she intended I'm sure!

If you must keep things you don't like because you don't want to offend somebody, just hide them in the cupboard and bring them out when the culprit visits. Or better yet, say it got broken by the cat! Removing things you don't like creates space for the things you do.

If you did identify an animal (apart from your pets) that seems to **fascinate** you, try to include statues, pictures, or some form of this animal within your home. Animals such as these are deemed to be your personal **totem**, and are considered **powerful protectors** in many cultures.

Specific animal totems are also said to carry certain traits or powers that meld with their human counterparts. I myself collect owls, and although they're not on display in one huge collection, there is one owl placed in every room of my home.

Where possible they are placed up high, as this is said to offer protection, particularly if placed over a door or window. I also have two large owl statues at my front door. My own guardsmen!

And of course, if you have any favourite mythological creatures or symbols, it's a must to include these in your home. Who knows why we are drawn to such things, but you'll find yourself much happier if you include any item with an unexplained **allure**.

Religion can be a powerful part of many people's lives, and yet some are not too sure about incorporating it into their decorating. If your faith is important to you, then placing objects that represent your faith around your home will provide instant comfort.

If you're not particularly religious, but have an unexplained attraction to religious symbols, then **follow your heart** and don't be afraid to include these in your home.

Which room was your favourite? Which ever one it was, make sure you give it the attention it deserves.

And, think about why it's your favourite.

Is there anything you could learn from that room that you could apply to other rooms in your home? Is it the colour you love? The things in it? The **feeling** it creates?

Try adapting whatever it is that makes this room special so that the rest of your home can benefit.

Take a look at what you wrote about your fantasy home. Is there anything that could be incorporated into the home you have now? Are there things you can add to your home to make it reflect the real you?

Your home is like an island in this stressful, hectic world. One of the few places

where you can truly be yourself.

Follow your instincts and give it the attention it deserves.

You'll create your very own oasis.... A place to relax, rest, create, dream, entertain, escape, laugh, love, and have fun!

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