



Smarter Move

*A calm, practical guide to
preparing your new home
with intention.*

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Hi! I'm Shifra,

an interior designer and someone who knows firsthand what it's like to move into unfamiliar spaces and start fresh. Creating a home is about building a space that reflects your life, your values, and your sense of calm, even when everything around you is changing.

This guide brings together what I've learned through my own moves and from working with clients who are navigating new chapters—whether that's across the world or just across town.

My hope is that it brings you clarity, confidence, and a little bit of peace as you design your next space, one step at a time.



Design-Led Planning

Moving can feel like chaos waiting to happen. If just thinking about packing boxes, managing movers, and making a thousand tiny decisions makes your heart race, you're not alone. But it doesn't have to be that way.



When you take time to pause and plan your space before the boxes arrive, you give yourself the gift of calm. Thinking ahead about layout, flow, and how your space will actually function helps you avoid costly mistakes, unnecessary stress, and furniture that just doesn't fit. A little pre-planning goes a long way — and it can even be fun.



Design-Led Planning



How to Sketch a Simple Floor Plan (No Designer Tools Needed)

Step 1: **Measure & Draw**

- Measure the length of the major walls in your living/dining area.
- On a blank piece of paper, draw a basic rectangle or square that represents the room.
- Label each wall with its measurement (in cm or inches — whatever works for you).

I like to use post-its which are sticky already!

Step 2: **Cut Your Furniture to Scale** (Roughly!)

- Cut rectangles out of colored paper to represent your large furniture: sofa, table.
- Don't stress about perfect scale — the goal is to see proportions and layout ideas as if you're looking at it from overhead.
- Label each piece ("Sofa," "Dining Table," etc.)

Step 3: **Move Things Around**

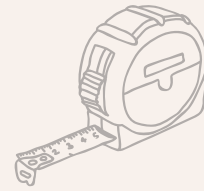
- Shift your paper furniture around your sketch until the layout feels right.
- Consider: Where does the light come in? Can people walk through easily? Is it too crowded?

Pay attention to high-traffic areas like around the couches.

Step 4: **Add the Details**

- Tape down your furniture and imagine you're looking at it from above.
- Lightly sketch in smaller pieces: chairs, bookshelves, coffee table, side tables.
- Repeat this process for any other room you're unsure about (bedroom, kids' room, office).

Pack Like a Designer



Packing is stressful — but it's also a chance to ask: *Does this fit the life I'm building?* Instead of tossing everything into boxes, choose what truly supports the space you want to create. Bring the essentials from your old home, but let this move be a fresh take and not just a replica.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bring This	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave This
Soft furnishings you love — pillows, throws, linens	Worn-out or mismatched sets you've been meaning to replace
Kitchen tools you use weekly — peeler, knife, small appliances you rely on	That extra pizza slicer you've never used
Storage bins that already work (clear, stackable, sturdy)	Awkward storage pieces that never quite worked
Meaningful Judaica and Shabbos stuff that you use	Your 7 extra kiddush cups for that "just-in-case" moment
1-2 "anchor" furniture pieces — side table, lamp, chair	Bulky furniture that doesn't fit your new space or lifestyle

When making Aliyah, check your bed size before ordering linens!

Moving to Israel? Check your appliances' voltage type.

Israeli apartments are usually smaller, see my floor plan guide for more tips.

Add in your own thoughtful choices here.

Packing Tips to Save your Sanity

Let's be honest: packing is rarely graceful. But a few smart systems can make the difference between total chaos and "I've got this". These are the real-life packing tips I use with clients (and myself!) to make the process smoother, less chaotic, and way easier to unpack on the other side.

I read online recently to make a box or suitcase with your necessities for the first 24 hours following the move. Genius!

Create a packing spreadsheet with a column for box #, room, and a rough idea of the contents. It will make moving a breeze!

Start a month before by packing what you won't need until the next season, winter clothes, rarely used dishes, some books.

Clearly mark where your linens are and make the beds first thing upon arriving. Naptime! 😊

Use painters tape on any furniture, cabinets or walls you want to label so there's no residue-don't ask me how I know...

Create a digital or physical home binder to collect your moving company contract, rental info, paint colors, wifi info etc.

Moving is easier when your brain isn't trying to remember what's in Box 23. Label now, breathe later.



Styling Your New Space

Unpacking takes time — and that's okay. But even before everything's in place, you can start to bring in moments of comfort and warmth. A rug under your feet, a lamp that softens the light, a shelf with a few familiar things. When we moved, I didn't have much set up — but I lit candles in the same spot each week, unrolled one rug, styled one shelf. It made all the difference

Layer in the lighting, this is what transforms a house into a warm, livable home.

Create a candle lighting corner. I love making a zone for this on a tall console or shelf and include a painting or photos.



A rug is essential for dividing up space, whether you need a play area or a separate living area in a small apartment.

Soft textiles like blankets, throw pillows and an ottoman = instant coziness



You've got the vision of what your new space could feel like. But between the packing lists, furniture measurements, and figuring out where to put your kids toys... it's a lot.

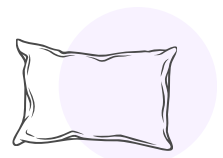
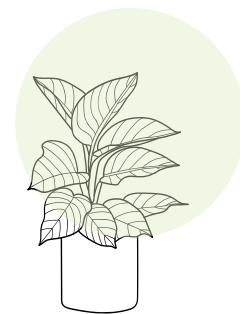
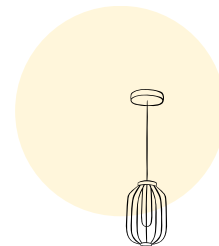
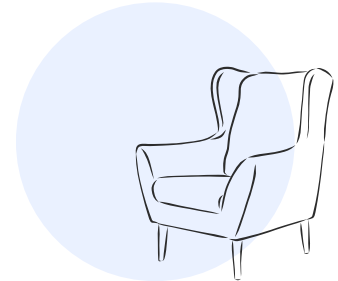
I can help.

Whether you need a one-time consultation, full-service design, or just someone on the other end of a WhatsApp message while you unpack, my goal is the same:

To help you move forward with clarity, intention, and a home that actually fits your life.

Let's make this move feel lighter — and your new space feel like home.

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