

Eight rules for luxe without overdoing it

Eight rules for getting modern glam right

1 Start with curves

A curved sofa, an oval coffee table, a round dining table. Hard rectangles read corporate; soft curves read luxe.

2 Velvet, but only in restraint

One major velvet piece (sofa or accent chairs). Add a velvet pillow or two. Two full velvet seating groups in one room reads costume.

3 Brass and burnished metals beat chrome

Pair antique brass, burnished bronze, or champagne gold. Avoid bright polished chrome (it reads 1980s glam, not modern).

4 Bring in stone

Marble (Calacatta, Carrara), travertine, or onyx in coffee tables, side tables, fireplace surrounds, or lamp bases. One major stone piece per zone.

5 Sculptural lighting at every level

A statement chandelier, plus sculptural table lamps, plus low ambient floor lamps. Modern glam is lit like a film set.

6 Layer neutrals, accent with jewel tones

Cream, champagne, taupe, and warm white as the base. One jewel accent per room (emerald, sapphire, rose, oxblood).

7 Fewer pieces, larger scale

Modern glam is not maximalist. Choose three to five major statement pieces per room and let them breathe.

8 Mix old with new

An antique brass mirror beside a modern velvet sofa, or a vintage Murano lamp on a contemporary console, prevents the look from reading like a hotel lobby.