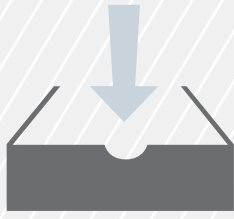


# Tips to improve as a Graphic Designer



## BECOME A COLLECTOR

Each time you see a design that inspires you, collect it, bring it home and file it away. You can stack them in boxes or folders, allowing you access to them. They're a great resource of inspiration when needed.

## BUY BOOKS

Having an extensive book collection is always essential to learning. I try buying a new book at least every 2 weeks that range from inspirational, educational and technical topics.



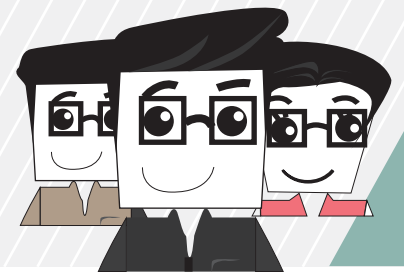
## TAKE LOTS OF PHOTOS



Solves the problem of not being able to take home designs you like – Camera phones are great for this kind of thing. Just snap a photo and file it away for later.

## JOIN A COMMUNITY

As a freelance designer, joining the online design community is a must. Not only does it keep you up-to-date in the design world, but is also great for feedback and critique. Being your own boss is great, but not having anyone to answer to as a freelancer also has it's down sides. No one to criticize your work and help you improve.



## REDO OLD DESIGNS

Don't want to create a fake brand to design? Try redesigning other people's projects. This help's you evaluate what "they" did wrong and what you could do better.

## LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Try something new or do something completely unrelated to design. Getting your mind off things and into something new, usually has a funny way of working itself back around.

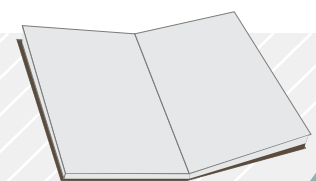


## TRAVEL

Experiencing new cultures and seeing their artwork opens your mind to a whole new world. It is good for inspiration.

## GRAB A SKETCHBOOK

Helps you work through ideas quickly and without limitations of design software.



## LEAVE IT OVERNIGHT

Most things in life make more sense the next day. If you're lucky you might even have a flash of inspiration in the meantime, when you're on your evening run or in the shower or doing whatever else it is that you do when you're not at your computer pushing pixels around. When you come back to your design the next day, the best and/or the worst things about it will jump out at you.