

Personalize Your Space — TRENDS 2009

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The trend in all areas of life is personalization. Technology has permitted us to order custom sized jeans, custom car interiors even custom showers made to perfectly fit our bodies. Your home is your most personal possession! How can you personalize your space and put your individual imprint on it?

Personalizing your space is the only way to really feel at home in your home! Giving a home authenticity is the most important ingredient. There is only one YOU and your home needs to reflect who you are.

What are your interests? Do you travel? Gather your favorite travel photos and create a gallery wall as I did for my globe trotting clients above their buffet, pictured on the right. Printing your photos in black and white or sepia tones unites the wall and makes the subject matter more important and artistic.

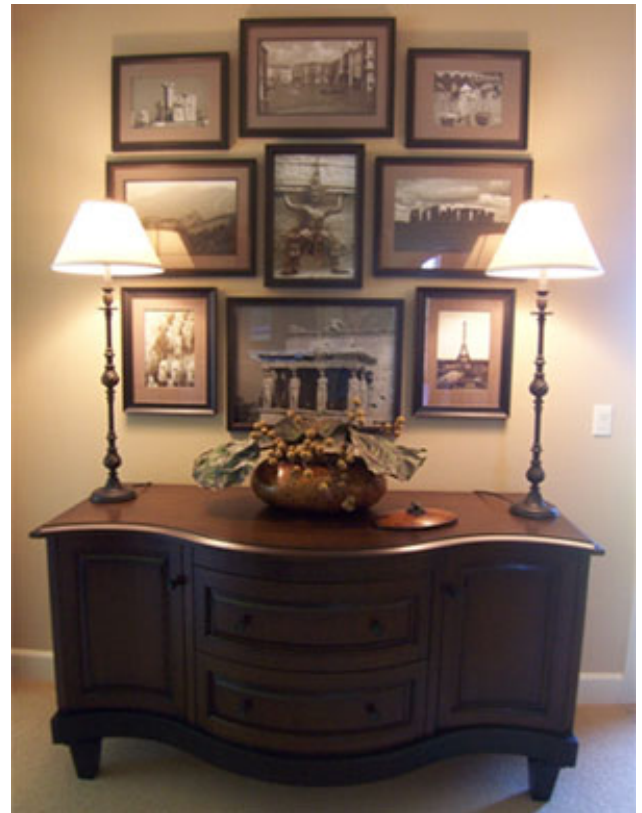
Do you collect? Display your collections! Designate a bookcase or install a shelf above a doorway or line a room in shelves and carefully group your collectibles. Be sure your treasures can be seen. Pot lights and directional recessed lights can be added by an electrician.

Accessories are the magical ingredients that make a room come alive. I remember the disappointment one of my clients felt prior to the placement of the final decorative elements.

As my client sat on her new sofa and looked around the room she was really let down. She thought it was nice but something was missing. The "personality" of the room had yet to come alive.

Keeping in mind the design principals of proportion, rhythm, balance and scale, I made several trips to nearby boutiques selecting items I thought worked in the space and fit my client's discovery interview words artistic, bold, serene and elegant.

My car was overflowing with treasures when I arrived and I quickly starting accessorizing. I interspersed family treasures along with antiques and new collectables. I placed a sensuous black curving sculpture to fill a bare corner of the living room. We hung the art and placed some white orchids and green plants around the room. That's when the living room of



her dreams came alive.

With the curved sofa and other rounded items, along with interesting accessories and artwork the living room takes on a sophisticated Zen feel.



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

Take your time and buy once. Be sure that your accessories mean something to you. Tell your story with your accessories.



Display a ceramic bowl from your children's art class. Mix old and new pieces together. Don't be afraid of using your grandmother's silver tray on a rustic leather ottoman. These touches give meaning and history to your home.

Quick Tip: Bring out objects that you have collected on memorable family vacations.

Accessorizing with personal objects is the way to give a home your imprint. Indulge in the extraordinary. From the andirons in the fireplace, the mirror in your powder room, to your tableware, keep in mind your overall style direction.



I had a client that travels and wanted to display the tapestry she found on one of her trips. These are the ingredients that make a home uniquely yours.

Every design element needs to mean something to you. Take your time to find just the right pieces – you will be glad you did.

Fresh flowers and candles will be the only items you will need to purchase. When you take your time with this last step you will not want to constantly buy things...you will have EXACTLY what you want the first time!

Designer Secret:

I accessorize with books, they help warm up a space.

The new "spine" bookshelves (pictured below in my office) are great if you don't have a lot of space. Large coffee table books stacked high next to a reading chair looks casual and warm. One other secret I want to share is that I change out-of-date hardware on chests and cabinetry. It is amazing the lift your room will get with new knobs and pulls.



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