

Style Like a Pro

BY YANIC SIMARD

Once you've painted the walls and brought in all of your beautiful pieces of furniture to your newly designed room, and you think it's time to sit down and enjoy your space – think again! Accessorizing is the next, most important and final step. Accessorizing is like putting the cherry on the sundae – it doesn't look (or taste!) as good until you've done it!



01 FRESH FLOWERS

You can never have too many fresh flowers in your home. It's especially nice to purchase them when you're expecting company. Flowers as simple as white tulips can cheer up any room, and they'll give your home a nice scent too. You can also make your own floral arrangements by combining tall branches and a few stems of in season flowers, such as lilacs.

02 PILLOWS

If your furniture is feeling bare and bland, adding some pops of colour and comfort is made easy with a few toss cushions. Throw pillows are a great way to experiment with pattern and colour, and are easy to change when you're ready for something new.

03 ENHANCING WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE

Even the most beautiful pieces of furniture need to be decorated to feel more warm and inviting, for example a foyer console table. To warm up the look, you can decorate the underneath area. Try sliding in two small ottomans or stools, and decorating the tops of them. Decorate with books and small accessories like trays and boxes. Decorate the top of the console too with coordinating accent pieces.

04 TEXTURE

Playing with texture is a very important trick when it comes to a well-decorated space. It's not only about experimenting with different fabrics, but different finishes as well. A room that has varying textures is more interesting, and will help take the eye around the room rather than having it focus on one spot. I like to bring wood, metal, glass and painted pieces all together in one space.

05 MID-CENTURY PIECES

I feel like every room should have at least one mid-century piece of furniture in it. I like when rooms look like they've taken years to put together, even if they haven't. In your living room you can have a modular sofa, but take the décor up a notch by bringing in one or two Chiavari chairs.

06 THE COLOUR BLUE

You can never go wrong when accessorizing if you stick with a blue colour pallet. Keep it simple and stay monochromatic, using different as many shades of it as you want.

07 HEIGHTS

When styling, be sure that the pieces you are using come in varying heights. Having everything at the same level creates less interest.

08 ARTWORK

When it comes to artwork, people often step away because they are unsure of how to position it on the walls. The general rule of thumb is that the middle of the picture should be at eye level. Artwork should be hung no more than seven to 10 inches above a table, and five to eight inches above a sofa. If you're still not confident, you can always rest your artwork on a surface and have it lean up against the wall. If you've got a lot of small art pieces, consider grouping them together. If you've got large pieces, they should be hung separately.

09 MIRRORS

Adding mirrors to any décor is a great way to finish off a room. Mirrors make the room appear larger, reflect light and add a hint of sparkle to the space. The larger the mirror, the greater the affect will be.

10 LIGHTING

Lighting can always make or break the overall ambience or impact the décor in a room. Adjustable lights on a dimmer switch are always a good option because they can be positioned to highlight or draw the eye away from a particular area. A dimmer switch is a great added feature, helping set the mood that you are trying to achieve without having to make it a full-time commitment.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS:

- » Accessorizing in groupings and in odd numbers if often a safe bet when decorating.
- » Antique shops are great when shopping to find that one-of-a-kind accessory that your space is calling for.
- » Don't buy all of your accessories in one place. Shop at a minimum of three different places.



Yanic Simard is the principal designer of the Toronto Interior Design Group. Specializing in residential and commercial projects, Simard often applies his signature high/low and old/new combination design techniques in developing unique designs. Simard has created designs for clients in Toronto, Montreal and Miami, and appears as a regular guest expert on Citytv's *CityLine*. For more information visit tidg.ca.