

The Importance of Accessorizing

Your beautiful new furniture was just delivered and it looks exactly as you had imagined it would. Yet, can your room look even nicer? If there is one thing that is often overlooked when making a room as good as it can be – it is accessorizing. The furniture may be the best quality available, the window treatments may be the nicest in the world, the color usage second to none, but if the room isn't accessorized well the room may look unfinished.

ACCESSORIES, MORE THAN ANYTHING else in your home, can bring a room to life. It is the single most overlooked, yet possibly the most important part of decorating a room. Placement, color, scale, lighting and personal touches are just a few items important to accessorizing a room.

Area rugs are the largest accessory that will bring the fabric combinations together. Pillows in accent colors can bring in important color and patterns. Artwork – either hanging on walls or on easels – can add to the element of color. Splashes of color can bring a dull-looking room to life. Use it to your advantage!

Placement is as important as anything. Pictures don't have to be at the same height in a room. Mix it up a little. How many times have you walked into a room and seen all the furniture lined up against walls. Float furniture in the center of your room, creating conversation areas.

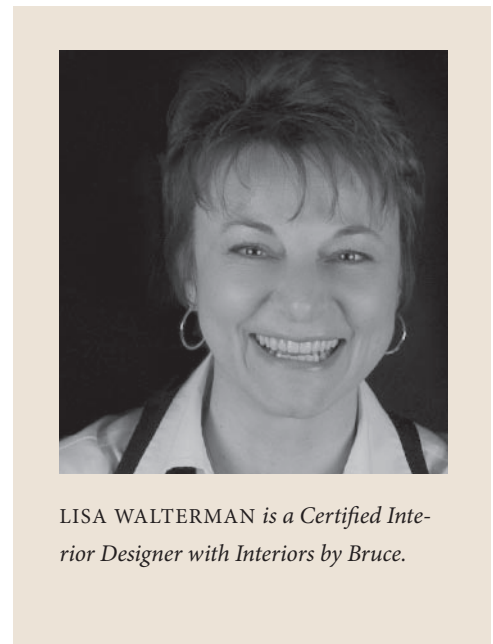
Scale is often misunderstood yet is critical when accessorizing a room. Some people believe that a small room should have small accessories. Not true. A large accessory may be just right if placed properly. Scale can be used to create inter-

est. A large scale accessory can make a statement. If a lamp is placed on one end of a sofa table, the same lamp does not need to be placed at the other end of the table. Instead use a lower, heavier piece such as a plant, or a heavy vase can be used. Balance is important, but it doesn't have to be equal. Informal use of balance can enhance the interest in a room. While some prefer symmetrical placement, balance is what needs to be achieved when accessorizing even when not symmetrical. Varying the scale used in the room will only add to the depth.

Lighting is also important and can be easily overlooked. It is advantageous for a designer to get involved in a project before the room is drywalled or the electric is run. It's not just outlet placement that's important, but down lights may need to be placed. Sometimes an accent light on artwork needs placement. Soft lighting is often the nicest way to light a space, and bouncing light off a wall or ceiling is the right way to achieve that. Lamps need to be used to add ambiance to the room and for the sheer quality that a beautiful lamp adds to the look of the room.

Don't be afraid to use personal touches in your room. It is important to use pieces that are part of your life. It adds personalization to the room and can warm the room up. A game room needs sports memorabilia. Don't be afraid to bring into the room things that are personal to you for warmth.

Beautiful decorative boxes can be very interesting in a room. Placed on a cocktail table they can double for a place to put the remotes or coasters. Candlesticks in varying heights can also add interest to any table. Look around your home, you



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might have some. They don't have to match, yet might just be varying sizes. If they are the same height, no problem, just add a book underneath for a height change.

Flower arrangements and greenery are also a great way to add warmth to a room, but be careful not to overdo it. Try taking a glass bowl and adding colorful glass balls to it. You can also put glass balls on tables if a decorative drapery ring is used under for stability.

Finally, don't overcrowd your room. Try taking a look around the room and see if you can spot clutter. Remove everything and in its place put just a few key pieces. Try standing back and taking a look with an objective eye. Move things around. Try different arrangements. Imagination is often the correct way to accessorize. Never say no to anything before you try it to see how it looks.

Accessories are often overlooked because of the cost or misunderstanding of just how important to the end look of a room that it really is. Finding just the right fabrics, furniture selections and window treatments is a lot of work. The most exciting and fun moment is when it comes together and is solidified with the accessories. Nothing is more gratifying or beautiful than a well-accessorized room. 

ITEMS TO CONSIDER AS ACCESSORIES:

- * Area rugs
- * Pictures and mirrors
- * Greens and floral arrangements
- * Lamps and sconces
- * Pillows
- * Throws
- * Pedestals
- * Vases
- * Easels
- * Tabletop items i.e. picture frames, books and candlesticks