

Trends In Decorating

Today's decorating look is relaxed and casually elegant. Old decorating rules no longer apply. Forget about trying to get the perfect color match or sticking with one particular decorative style. Homeowners are mixing patterns, colors, styles and brands. The new look is individualistic. It's all about creating environments that are as unique as each individual homeowner.

Want to put a little more of your own style and personality into your home? Here are a few guidelines to making over your space without breaking the bank:

Styles: Don't be afraid to mix styles and time periods. Grandma's mahogany credenza will look great next your favorite glass table. Putting some primitive art next to a pair of Queen Anne chairs provides contrast and brings out the interesting qualities of both pieces. Often we are attracted to the same colors or decorative lines – so if you like it, no matter what the style or time period, it probably has some quality or characteristic that will make it harmonizes with your other belongings.

Collections: If you have a passion, hobby or interest, show it off in your home. Even the most common items, when displayed correctly, can make an attractive conversation piece. Do you like to go to the theater? Frame those playbills and place them in several rows on an accent wall. Are you a car buff with a collection of antique hubcaps? Putting them on a single wall turns them into pieces of art. Do you collect straw baskets? Bring them out and use them as magazine holders or as storage

for games and toys. Here's a hint: Instead of placing your collection all around the house, group it on a bookcase, single wall or table. It prevents your look from getting cluttered and brings attention to your collection, giving it a special presence.

Color: Today, it's not about fad colors; it's all about using your favorites. Bold shocks of color, pale pastels, soothing neutrals, spicy tropical hues – they're all being used in decorating today. If you don't want to make a major color commitment, add in a few accessories. Changing the throw pillows, area rugs, and lampshades can give you a refreshing jolt of color.

Textures: Allow your home to stimulate all of your senses. Decorate by feel. This is especially important if your color scheme is monochromatic. Avoid boredom by pairing nubby textures with a silk or satin. Mix natural rough fibers with smoother man-made textures. This adds a sense of elegance and gives your room a designer look.

Change it up: Don't be afraid to move things around, rearrange pictures, and add in new colors. It's easy to get a fast new look by simply changing accessories. A few new vases and some throw pillows can give a tired room a whole new attitude. One fast and inexpensive way to completely change the look of a room is by adding in a new area rug. "There's no faster way to decorate or redecorate a room. It takes five minutes to put down a new area rug and it gives a room a dramatic new look."

For more information call Area Rugs Direct at 877.224.ARUG(2784) or visit www.ArugDirect.com.