

The Decorating News



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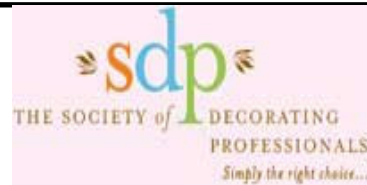
The Art of Accessorizing Series Part 3 - Area Rugs & Tablescapes

Area rugs are a valuable addition to almost every living or family room. The addition of a rug anchors the conversation area. It is important to relate the rug to the furniture grouping not allowing the rug to "float" alone in the center of the room. Also, make sure the rug is large enough for the space. A good rule of thumb is a 5' x 8' and no smaller than a 4' x 6'. When placing a rug in a dining area, it should be at least 6" wider than the space a chair pulled back would occupy. When in doubt, always go up in size, not down.



When creating tablescapes and shelf arrangements, gather collections that may be spread throughout your home. Make sure items you use for a tablescape arrangement are the correct size and scale for the surface. Also, remember to use highs and lows to create interest. Books minus their book jackets are wonderful "pedestals" to elevate accessories. Do not overfill the tabletops; leave some space so the tables have an actual function if needed for the occasional beverage. Here are a few other great tips:

- Odd numbers of accessories work better when clustered together. Using an odd number of objects, reinforces the rule about the triangle shape being visually pleasing to the human eye.
- If you have a collection of many small pieces, unify them by placing them on a tray.
- If you have two matching lamps, elevate one of them by placing a couple of handsome books under it. The elevated lamp should generally be at the left of the sofa. We "read" a room like we read a book: left to right. *continued on pg 2*



To schedule your appointment for an Interior Redesign, Design or Color Consultation, Personal Design Shopping, or Speaking Engagement, call Roberta at 360.471.HOME

Roberta's
Favorite!



The Pampered Duck

Janet Judge's, *The Pampered Duck*, products are handmade in Poulsbo, WA using quality and all natural ingredients. One particular product I love is the *Exotic Delight Lotion Bar*, filled with exotic oils that feel wonderful on your skin. The oils soak right through the skin to provide moisture and relieve dryness. Janet uses oils like Aloe Butter, Borage & Rosehip Seed Oil, and Emu Oil. These bars are top quality and very affordable, and trust me, you won't want to use anything else once you've tried them! To order the lotion bars or any other of her other great products visit www.pamperedduck.com and place your order today! Check out the Links page where you'll find special information for local delivery options.

"It is not always our things that we grow tired of rather it is the way in which they are displayed."

continued from pg 1

- Bookshelves are more interesting when accessories are arranged in a zigzag pattern. On the top shelf, begin by creating the highest point with a tall accessory placed on the left moving toward the right with smaller accessories. On the second shelf, place the tallest accessory on the right moving toward the left with the smaller accessories and so on. If you have a number of shelves, then center one impressive piece on the shelf midway down the bookcase, and then return to the zigzag pattern.
- If you have a bookcase with adjustable shelves, create more interest by varying the space between the shelves. For an unexpected touch, remove one of the shelves and hang a mirror or picture to the back wall of the bookcase.
- Vary books with interesting objects to create dimension and add pockets of color to the shelves and the room. Repeat a color in a room at least three times to make it belong to the room.
- When unloading your bookshelves, remove items beginning with the bottom shelf working towards the top. When you are filling your bookshelves with accessories, reload your shelves starting with the top shelf working towards the bottom. This way, if you accidentally drop something, you will not chance breaking as many items.

Accessories are a true reflection of the personality of the people that live in the home. As you shop for the missing pieces of your room, remember to purchase things that reflect your style and personality...not just something that "matches". Hotels have pictures that match...is that the look you want to achieve for your room?

Now stand back and look...does the room look awesome? Pat yourself on the back for a job well done!

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