

An Artful Home

BY TRACEE BOMBERGER

As an Interior Designer, I am often asked how to best select art for a home, which is an easy question to answer, but more challenging to execute. My answer is simple: buy what you LOVE. This “rule” applies to all budgets, all art forms, and all design styles. Think of it in terms of how you enjoy performing arts or any live entertainment. For example, if you buy season tickets to the Sarasota Ballet, it’s because you love watching ballet! Don’t buy the tickets if ballet bores you.

There are rooms that are designed around art, and there are rooms that need a design plan for art. This is the easiest question in the process, and there isn’t a right or wrong answer. Look around—which category are you in? Either way, the end result will be beautiful! As an example, if you have fallen in love with an Art Nouveau painting, but do not have any other furnishings for the room, that painting has just become your design inspiration for the room! If you are more likely to fall in love with a gorgeous fabric for the drapery, then your art selection will likely be one to enhance the beauty of the overall space. Sometimes, an impulse purchase of something that grabs your attention is the best design decision you can make!

Every beautiful interior has a focal point that should vary from room to room. The living room may have an architectural detail in a fireplace, the kitchen may have a custom designed, hand-cut, glass backsplash, and the foyer may have a one-of-a-kind oil painting that sets the tone for rest of the home. Art is seen in many forms - from paintings to sculpture to pottery to furniture to area rugs and more! I love getting to know my clients so I may guide them in the selection and placement of the art that not only moves them, but also works beautifully within their home.

Your art should be personal and meaning-



ful. Not every piece needs to have a “story,” but as a good rule of thumb, it should reflect your personality and interests. This is an important point as beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder.

A sports fan may find beauty in an antique golf club or a signed jersey. Likewise, a grandparent may display a collection of framed preschool art from their grandchildren. Going on a hunt to find art to “match” your room is not likely to create the same joy as a well-designed display of something meaningful.

How art is arranged and displayed is as important as the art itself. Your designer is the most valuable resource you have to make the most of your art pieces. Two of my favorite ways to enhance a room? Creating a themed collection and using oversized art to create drama. The ‘art’ of Interior Design is in creating a luxurious space that reflects your personality and lifestyle.



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