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SPRING 2014 | VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

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MAKE A STATEMENT WITH YOUR FOYER

BY EVELYN ESHUN

Photo Courtesy of Greenpark Homes

When a guest enters your home, the greeting they receive is much like a the first impression one makes when meeting someone. This is the place to make a statement and tell your guests who you are and what your home's personality is. This area of the house is a perfect place to exhibit your personality and what you want your guests to understand as your style or modus operandi. The reality in most of our homes is to hide away shoes, coats and other paraphernalia which most families gather. That said, there is no excuse to leave this area behind in your plan to design and decorate your home.

When working with this client, one of my mandates was to create a welcoming entry which had the 'wow factor'. To achieve this, I planned to use millwork, colour and pattern to make a design statement. Built up mouldings painted from top to bottom with an elegant warm grey from Para Paints. Painting the walls in the immediate entry area a deep and dramatic colour instantly gives your guests a visual treat.

Lighting is key to creating drama in a space. The entry hall or foyer is a perfect place to add some drama with wall sconces or rope lighting in the crown moulding. When planning lighting for my client's renovations or new home building projects, the consideration of how the client will entertain, what impression they want to put forth and of course the ever dreaded budget determines the complexity of the lighting plan. Depending on the budget, there can be flexibility to dim the recessed downlights and turn on only the wall sconces or the rope lighting.

The flooring in your foyer or hall area has to work hard to help maintain the cleanliness of your home, but consider this: For most of us, this area is not so large that we can't install a floor which looks fantastic while doing the boring job of maintaining cleanliness. If you're fortunate to have a mudroom, you can step it up with a finish which

is more formal like marble. Creating a pattern with a simple material will give you a personalized look. Keep it geometric and classic for longevity and investment value.

Providing a spot to drop keys, random papers or mail may be necessary if you have only one entry, so a piece of furniture which can house these items via a drawer or a door is very useful. A mirrored cabinet can add glamour and pizzazz, very suited to the personality of the lady of the house. Even adding a mirror somewhere close to the front door gives the option to check oneself as needed before stepping out into the world.

TIPS

ONE

Add dimmers to the hall lighting; it will allow you to create an ambience that suits your needs when planning events.

TWO

Paint a deeper colour in the area that is defined as the entry. This will give you instant drama and make an undeniable statement.

THREE

Adding moulding details will give you added drama and architectural detail. If you can't do it throughout the hall, add it only in the actual entry. It will dramatically change the 'welcome factor' of your home.

FOUR

High gloss finishes tend to give a more formal look while honed and textured finishes tend to be more casual.

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