NEW HOMES & CONDOS

DESIGN SENSE

The approach used heres was to create a dense collage of similarly framed photos which were both black and white, and colour.

In this family room, designer Evelyn Eshun worked closely with the client to carefully select and hang treasured images.

Suitable for framing

Plan to give your family photos the treatment they deserve

EVELYN ESHUN
Special to QMI Agency

It seems more often than not that I have a client who says that they have a ton of prints or photos tucked away "in the basement" which they would like to organize and finally do something with. Sound familiar?

I am one of those, with a pile of watercolours and images which I have collected over my travels. Hence, my inspiration to write about organizing and hanging art or photography on your walls.

There is no better time than spring to get to it and tackle the backlog of 'to-do's'. Family photos are a great place to start.

In the family room pictured here, I worked closely with the client to carefully select treasured images of family which would hang in their family room. It was an emotional journey which I was privileged to share and experience.

My first step was to measure out the wall area which would be covered with the images. We decided to go for it and create a dense collage of similarly framed photos which were both black and white and sepia.

Coour photos were converted by an art framing company into Sepia or Black and White. We were also able to alter the size of some of the prints based on where we wanted to place them.

Because the collection was meant to be dense and busy, I selected six different frames and mattes — all the same colour tone — but with different weights, thicknesses and shapes. This kept a consistency throughout the collection.

Mirrors were also made to break up the monotony of the photos and add a sparkle to the collection.

When creating a collection of art on your walls, it is important to realize that the eye is always looking for a line or pattern. You must give a cohesive look to the collection and the first way to do so is by creating a rhythm.

I picked the top and sides to be perfectly lined up so that it looks clean. The 'random' feeling comes from the unmatched lines within the collection.

Just like carefully touseled hairstyle which is meant to look as though there was no effort in putting it together, this process took hours, about 16 to be exact. including planning where to hang, measuring and hanging the photos.

Patience pays off though and the finished look provided a true family room, where everyone is included and the final display has become a part of their daily life.

Thoroughly inspired to get into your photos and art? Lay them all out on the floor or large table, just as they would hang on the wall. This will give you the ability to create a time-line or theme if you wish to do so, it also help you visualize the finished product on the wall.

— Toronto-based accredited interior designer Evelyn Eshun is principal of Evelyn Eshun Design which specializes in custom designed residential projects throughout the GTA.

TIPS

- Keep your photography all colour or all two tone, this will give harmony to your collection.

- If you use coloured photos, your frames should be simple in order so as to not take away from the photos.

- Your frame shop can turn favourite colour photos to black and white and size them up for your purpose.

- Use frames and mattes which are of similar styles in order to make the collection focus on the photos.

- Vary the size of frames and mattes to add a dynamic element to your collection.

- Space the frames 4" to 6" apart and about 10" from the back of your sofa or table for perfect harmony.

- Include Mirrors of various shapes to add interest in your collection.

- Cut Bristol board in the shapes of your frames and stick them on the wall to make sure you are happy with the arrangement.