

[HOME DECOR]

ACCESSORIZING WITH *Confidence* THERE'S NO REASON TO BE INTIMIDATED BY **COLOUR**

Embrace the opportunity this spring to accent your home with a fresh colour palette. Instead of walking past the bright pillows and accessories at your local home decor shops, take the plunge. No matter what your taste is – bold and graphic or neutral and soft – there is always a way to invigorate your living space with colour.

A classic-shaped sofa and two chairs will last as long as the built-in quality allows, affording you the opportunity to change the look accordingly. In the space shown here, the same sofa is coupled with different area rugs to alter the overall look, which can be further customized.

BY EVELYN ESHUN



AREA RUGS

Because area rugs can be pricey, you may want to splurge on one fabulous high-quality, neutral rug like the silk-and-wool blend from W Studio (see photo A). Alternately, you can economize with a colourful, trendy choice, also from W Studio (see photo B), when you wish to make your space more vibrant.

It is the area of the rug that determines the conversation zone and, remember, all of the furniture either sits on or off the rug.

WINDOW DRESSING

Drapery does not have to be expensive and complicated, but it should frame the view and add height to the space. The simpler the drapery is the more it will act as an architectural feature. I like to use a solid

Photography: Larry Arnal Photography



colour fabric and mount the hardware as close to the ceiling as possible to give a fabulous illusion of height. Drapery is truly the finishing touch.

ACCENT PILLOWS

I'm a huge fan of using pillows to change up the living room. When you have the option of selecting pillows based on colours in the area rug, you can create a dynamic, interactive colour scheme. These pillows are from HomeSense – a good source for items that you might not want to spend a lot of money on.

For a bold, high-energy expression, consider combining these complementary colours for a graphic punch: yellow and purple, blue and orange, red and green.

For a softer, prettier look, use muted colours like dusty



pink with pale blue. A room can still have a ton of personality with soft variations of several colours.

SURFACE FINISHES

The shine of a mirror table, the gloss of a polished-nickel frame or the depth of a cut-glass vase can provide a tremendous accent to any space. As a general rule, the more neutral the colour scheme, the more

sparkle you need in a room. Assemble your room as you would a choir: the sopranos are the sparkle and the tenors are the deep textural items.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Continue to play with the pillows, fresh flowers and random trinkets or personal collectibles like books to further imprint your own personality on your living space. And, remember to

“With a minimal investment in accent pillows, you can achieve an upmarket look under \$50!”

invest in quality elements like classically styled sofas and chairs finished in a quiet pattern, mouldings to add character, and flooring to ground the space. ■

Evelyn Eshun is an accomplished designer with over 15 years of residential design and planning experience, from concept to final build. evelyneshun.com