

The Decorating News



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The Art of Accessorizing Series Part I - Lighting



Accessorizing, this is the icing on the cake, an aspect of decorating that reflects your personality and lifestyle. This is probably the most enjoyable part of the decorating process. The placement of accessories can make or break a room. Before you begin the accessorizing process, it is important to place your lighting in the room. This will insure your lighting becomes a part of the "accessory story" you are about to tell.

Following are a few general guidelines when incorporating lighting into your room.

- Create a triangle with the placement of your lamps used for task lighting. This will insure uniform lighting in the room. Lamps used for task lighting should be approx. 28" to 32" tall. Optimum height should be 40" to 42" from floor. If your lamp is not tall enough, elevate it on hardback books with the dust jackets removed. Good task lighting should be positioned behind the reader's shoulder and the lamp shade should be slightly below the reader's nose.
- A good height for lamps on dressers or accent lighting is 20" to 24".

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INTERIOR REDESIGN INDUSTRY SPECIALISTS

Roberta will be speaking on the
"Top 10 Decorating Mistakes and How to Avoid Them"
at the Northwest Design Center & Furniture Gallery in Poulsbo
Thursday, April 13, 2006 at 7 pm.
Contact Frank Portello at 360-697-4443 ext 5# for reservations.
Seminar is free, but seating is limited.

Morning Glory Muffins

Mix:

2 cups flour	1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 1/4 cup sugar	1/2 cup coconut
2 teaspoons soda	1 apple grated or 1 cup applesauce
2 teaspoons cinnamon	3 eggs
2 teaspoons salt	1 cup oil
2 cups grated carrots	2 teaspoons vanilla

Pour batter into muffin pan. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Makes about 20 muffins.

This recipe takes a little extra effort when preparing but is well worth it! Hot out of the oven with a little butter - Delicious!

Enlighten your Fireplace

When considering a focal point for a living or family room, most of us turn to our faithful fireplaces. During the winter, the fireplace creates great warmth and comfort, and it is truly the center of the room. But once springtime enters, and the fireplace is shut down for a few months, the space seems like a huge abyss that drains the room of life. If you find this to be true in your home, here are a few suggestions to resurrect the space until the chill of winter brings it back into service:



- Begin by cleaning the fireplace out; removing all ash, soot and firewood. Cleaning it alone will freshen the space tremendously.
- Add a nicely painted screen in front of the dark hole.
- Place a collection of silk plants arranged in a basket in the space. If you prefer to use living plants, consider using closet plants which require little light and work very well.
- Stand a nice decorated mirror

in front of the space and arrange plants, flowers and/or candles around it. The space will no longer look so deep and dark, and it will reflect light.

- Use the space as you would a decorative cove or shelf in your home by placing a nice still life arrangement in the space; include a lamp, picture, plants, decorative pots or anything else you love.

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- Do not place the lamp square in the center of the table. Bring it toward the upholstery and closer to the reader.
- Dining room chandeliers should be about 1/2 the width of the table plus 9".
- The lighting has been placed so now it's time to move on to wall art and accessories. Be watching for the next newsletter for more on the Art of Accessorizing series.