


NEW HOMES & CONDOS


Vignettes are unique and are meant to be tiny curated stories.



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Use 'vignettes' to keep it fresh



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LIVING IN STYLE

A “vignette” is the act of describing something. It should be brief and powerful. We mostly know this in its use in very short films or literary scenes.

But in decorating, it would be a small grouping of found objects, creating a striking focal point. These focal points can be found though out your home: a console table in your foyer, side tables in your living room and bedroom, coffee tables, bookcases, mantles and vanities. These balanced compositions are what really makes your home come alive.

Vignettes are unique and are meant to be tiny curated “stories”. They should have a personal touch as they are an expression of you and your style. When working with our clients I am always asking what items that they have that truly represent them.

Perhaps it was a piece of art that they picked up on a European trip, a family “heirloom” that brings fond memories of their family, or just some random item that they saw in a store window and

needed to have!

When we are creating these vignettes for our clients (once the rooms have been fully designed and furnished), we will choose an anchoring piece and build the story from there. It could be a lamp, mirror or piece of art.

Having determined this, we then need to take into account the theme and colour scheme as it should relate to the rest of the room. Sometimes you can add a bit of whimsy or a pop of an unexpected colour to make it more visually stimulating.

Next, we work from back to front of your vignette, starting with the larger object, leaving the smallest one for the final placement. Groupings of objects should always be in odd numbers; 3 or 5 work best. As we start placing your objects, here are a few additional tips to remember:

- Scale - the objects should vary in height and weight
- Textures - mix up the finishes; hard and shiny with rough and natural, remove dust jackets from books to

see the texture of fabric used on the books

- Space - allow them to have some breathing room around them
- Personality - mix modern and vintage pieces, but ensure that they relate to the story being told

- Edit - stand back and take a look at your work. Sometimes you may need to edit; change out a frame, or remove an item

Formal and traditional rooms should be balanced and symmetrical. Casual and modern rooms lend themselves better to asymmetrical groupings.

Vignettes are a great way to keep your home looking new and fresh. As nothing is permanently nailed down, you can change them up several times a year, depending on the season, holidays and your moods. Like fashion accessories, these vignettes are the style and bling of the room, bringing together a complete and polished room. With out these beautiful little stories, your sofa, tables and chairs would just be that. A sofa, tables and chairs. How dull is that.

— *Paul Semkuley is principal of re:Source Lifestyle, a Toronto-based interior design firm. For more information, visit online at www.resourcelifestyle.com.*



When creating a vignette, choose an anchoring piece and build from there.