



Vive la vignette!

Nothing makes a statement like an excellently executed vignette. Interior Stylist Paul Semkuley explains how you can add this striking finishing touch to your decor

BY PAUL SEMKULEY

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A “vignette” is the act of describing something. It should be brief and powerful. We mostly know a vignette in its use in very short films or literary scenes, but in decorating, it is a small grouping of found objects, creating a striking focal point. These focal points can be found throughout your home; a console table in your foyer, side tables in your living room and bedroom, coffee tables, bookcases, mantels and vanities.

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. You can

use a myriad of objects that work together to create a cohesive grouping: vases, candlesticks, lamps, bowls, books, picture frames, artwork and found objects (personal treasures, a magnifying glass, a sculpture, etc.). Formal and traditional rooms should be balanced and symmetrical. Casual and modern rooms lend themselves better to asymmetrical groupings.

To begin creating your vignette, we recommend choosing an anchoring piece and build your story from there. It could be a lamp, mirror or piece of art. Having identified the piece, you 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, work from back to front of your vignette, starting with the larger object and leaving the smallest one for the final placement. Groupings of objects should always be in odd numbers—three or five work best. As you start placing your objects, here are a few additional tips to remember:

SCALE The objects should vary in height and weight.

TEXTURE 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 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. ♦

SOURCES

BRASS SPHERE: Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca;
CANDLE TROUGH: Hollace Cluny **SEMI-PRECIOUS STONE ON STAND:** Joan Eiley, joaneiley.ca; **PURPLE GLASS VASE:** Manor, manordecor.com; **SILVER BOXES:** L'Atelier, 1224 Yonge St. Toronto, ON; **BOOKS:** Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca **WOVEN AND SILVER BOX:** South Hill Home, southhillhome.com; **CRYSTAL OBELISKS:** L'Atelier **PINK VASES:** Hollace Cluny **WOOD AND SILVER BOXES:** Elte, elte.com; **ROCK CRYSTAL CANDLEHOLDER:** L'Atelier



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 that bring together a complete and polished room. Without these beautiful little stories, your sofa, tables and chairs would just be that—a sofa, tables and chairs.



Paul Semkuley, a Toronto-based interior stylist and principal of re:source lifestyles, combines his love of art, fashion and design to offer a unique decorating point of view. With an extensive client base in Toronto and the GTA, the firm incorporates the client's existing collection of furniture and family treasures in unique and unpredictable ways. Paul transforms his clients' aspirations for new living spaces into homes that far exceed their expectations. resourcelifestyles.com

