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EC58-1136 Wall Accessories

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WALL ACCESSORIES
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Pictures, mirrors, textiles, clocks and hanging shelves are popular wall accessories. But almost anything that will hang flat can be used: plates, trays, maps, barometers and candle scones. Hobbies, such as arrow heads or butterfly collections can be mounted attractively and used to give your home a personal touch that makes it distinctively yours.

Regardless of the kind of wall decoration, your choice will be influenced by the available wall space, the furniture and the need for enrichment.

Selecting Wall Accessories

Well chosen accessories will meet these standards:

1. They are functionally sound; that is they will serve the purpose for which they are intended. A clock, for example, should permit one to tell the time easily.

2. Each object is individually beautiful. In checking an object for beauty consider its form, color and decoration. Is the form simple, well balanced and with good proportion? Does any decoration that is used seem to fit the object and be a part of it?

3. The accessories are in harmony with the room furnishings in color, size and style. Think in terms of a few large important accessories in scale with rooms and furniture supplemented with a few smaller sized ones for variety. Avoid the use of many little things because it will make the room visually cluttered. A clean room can look dirty if it is filled "itsy" "bitsy" things.

When choosing a picture for a small room a landscape will add vista and seem to push back the walls. Bold colors may seem to come forward, and would make the room seem smaller.

Mirrors can give an illusion of space and light and are especially effective in a small room or hallway.

Since the bedroom is more personal, it can express your taste more intimately than any other room in the house. Family photographs and other special pictures have their place in the bedroom.

Wall shelves permit flexibility in arrangement for books and accessories. Choose one object or group of objects to stand out as a center of interest. Group books together in size and save a little space for a plant, vase or figurine to keep the shelf from looking like the public library. Space items together so the shelves won't look cluttered. This may mean putting some thing away.
In deciding where to place things, think of the most important spots that need accent and be sure to leave plenty of plain space. The wall opposite a picture window or group of windows may need wall decoration to help the furniture balance the window treatment. It is logical to enrich places where people normally look or where you want them to look. Some of these spots would be opposite the entrance, opposite the conversational area, above a desk and at the end of a hall.

Pictures seen by people for long periods of time such as over a sofa should be worthy of study and be enjoyed at that distance, and should have more "holding power" than a picture in an entry way.

Wall treatment should be related to the furniture over which it is hung in size, shape and character. A vertical picture or vertical grouping is in keeping with a narrow space, a wide one over a sofa, or curved frame with curved lines in furniture.

Decorative objects should be placed against a background that will show them off to best advantage. A mat will help give importance to a picture and set it off from a patterned wall. Then matting a picture, relate the mat to the shape of the picture with bottom margin widest.
Sometimes a decorative object on the piece of furniture helps to unite the furniture with the wall treatment.

Off-center balance can be very effective. A picture may be balanced with a lamp or with a tall plant.

Do the accessories justice with good lighting. Spot lighting may be an effective way to emphasize a picture or grouping. Cove or other concealed light can provide good illumination.

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### Grouping Wall Accessories

When the space is big or the objects small, hang several together. A group of accessories may fill the space better and give emphasis.

Combine things that look well together and have something in common. Don't expect a pastel watercolor to look its best with a vivid oil painting.

Group items so that the space between them is less than that of the items themselves. This helps to avoid spottiness. Using paper cut the same size as the articles to be hung enables one to plan the arrangement.

If related in size, coloring and technique, two or more pictures can be matted and framed together.

When grouping a large picture with several small objects, place the large one above rather than be low.
Hanging Wall Accessories

Hang pictures as flat as possible, preferably blind with no wires showing. Only heavy mirrors and pictures need to be hung from the molding with picture wire supports parallel.

There are metal hooks with nails that can be bought in sizes that will support up to fifty pounds. The use of cellophane tape on the wall will prevent the nail from chipping the plaster. Gummed tape with hooks are available and can be used for many pictures and walls.

To hang pictures with wire, insert screw eyes in upper third of the picture frame. Put picture wire through screw eyes and twist ends around the wire. Check to see that hook when hung will not be above the frame. Lay picture hook in center of the wire. Measure the distance the picture hook or nail will be from the bottom of the picture. Be sure the wire is tight when measuring.

Mark this point where the hook should be on a piece of brown paper cut the size of the frame. With masking tape, place the paper on the wall and check it for height. Then mark the wall for the nail hole.

Arrange pictures or objects so that the lines of the composition carry the eye toward the center. For example bird prints facing each other rather than looking away.

The place to stagger pictures is the stairway, otherwise the stepup arrangement gives a feeling of unrest.

REMEMBER THIS ABOUT WALL ACCESSORIES:

1. Use colors and textures that tie in with the rest of your furnishings.
2. Find a wall or shelves that make a good background, and won’t compete with the accessories.
3. Arrange them in an interesting way to look as if they belong with the furniture near them.
4. Change accessories from time to time.
5. Let your accessories on the wall reflect your interests and personality.