

THE SUN NEW HOMES & CONDOS



Whether traditional or abstract, art when done well expresses the journey and personality of the homeowners.



Designer Melissa Davis says art can be the finishing detail that softens and connects the overall design or it can be a bold, demanding statement.

The art of selecting wall art



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THE INCOME RENOVATOR

Selecting art can be one of the most fun parts of the design process. It's a chance for homeowners to express their personality and truly pick something that speaks to them.

As much as it can be a romantic meandering shopping experience, my clients also tell me it feels like the most difficult. Taking the plunge and filling all those giant blank walls is scary.

Some might say to jump in and buy a piece you love and then design the room around it. It happens and I've seen some beautiful spaces with art collections that truly do play the starring role.

For me, I prefer to select my client's art towards the end of the process, that is, after the furniture, the drapery and the hard surfaces have been installed, and about the same time as the paint.

Art can be the finishing detail that softens and connects the overall design or it can be a bold demanding statement. It's tricky to pinpoint the perfect visual weight, scale and colours without the majority of the room already complete.

Fear not, there are a few simple things to keep in mind that will help you take the plunge

with confidence.

Here are my top four considerations before taking hammer to nail.

1. Scale. If the piece or pieces are going over furniture, use the outside limits of the bed, credenza or couch as your guide. Don't extend the art beyond those outside edges. So if the sofa is 6', your art should be less than 6' in width. Anything bigger will look and feel too top-heavy. Again the same rule applies for multiples. Plan groupings of art to fit within the overall boundaries a single larger piece might.

2. Feature or filler. Art can be a bold statement, striking up conversation and demanding attention. Large-scale canvases, graphic imagery and dark or bold colours will ensure the piece commands the attention you intended. On the other hand, a photograph framed to blend with the adjacent wall or a soft watery landscape will provide some relief from the vast blank walls but for the most part blend quietly with the overall palette. Spend a bit of time in the room beforehand and decide what your message and overall intent is for the piece.

3. Style. This is where there really are no rules. Art when

done well expresses the journey and personality of the homeowners. A traditional piece can as easily live in a contemporary home as an abstract might in the den of a traditional home. A great way to bridge the styles is choosing a frame in keeping with the overall design style and materials.

4. Proportions. As a general rule of thumb, take your cues from what is happening around the piece. If it's a tall narrow wall without any furniture

to worry about, then look to mimic the wall area by choosing a tall skinny piece that fills the area with a nice bit of relief around it of 6" or so. You can also opt for two smaller pieces that when stacked visually fill the same tall thin area.

— *Celebrity designer Melissa Davis is well-known for her appearances and creative work on several HGTV shows. For more information, visit www.melissadavis.com.*

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