



Five Steps Toward a Fabulous Room

Start with a focal piece. . .



Use any large or unusual item that you want to draw attention. Focal pieces can be a unique piece of furniture, a large work of art, or an architectural element, like a fireplace. Showpieces like these tend to draw attention anyway, so go ahead and place them prominently. Let them inspire the rest of your decorating in that immediate space. This is an especially good way to incorporate an antique into a more updated environment.

Create a theme around your focal piece...



Look at the accents you have around the room. Is there a common color, element, or style that you can pull together to make a statement? How do your accents interact with your focal piece? I like to take all my accent pieces into another room and sort them (also a great time to dust!). "Weed out" items you don't really love or that don't make sense for the feel of your room. You can always give it new life it elsewhere in the house. Based on how these groupings develop, you should start to recognize a theme that you can use.

Strategically place accent furniture...



Once you have a theme, you can begin placing the rest of your furniture. Remember that everything in the room should directly or indirectly support your focal piece. If the room is large or otherwise conducive to several focal areas, be sure to establish connectivity among the different vignettes. As a rule, I like to keep my accent furniture somewhat symmetrical and use asymmetry when accessorizing. I think this builds an interesting look.

Personalize your room with accessories...



Begin adding accessory pieces that are special to you but work with the theme. Even though you've already narrowed down your assortment, all your pieces might not work once you start placing them. Accent pieces should not have to compete for attention, so this is a time to be really honest about reaching your limit.

Soften the edges..



With your focal point structured and accessory pieces placed, start looking for ways to warm up the room and make it look homey. This is easily achieved with plants, flowers, accent pillows, throws, small scatter rugs, and other domestications. This is a great opportunity to add some texture, which will bring depth and an inviting feeling to your room.