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Accentuate Using wall features to pep up your home décor the positive



Photo courtesy of
Jeffrey Design LLC

Accenting one wall in a room with a special treatment is a simple way to add pizzazz.

Wall features or accent walls can transform a room by creating a focal point, injecting color or setting a mood.

By decorating a single wall differently — a bright coat of paint or a wood-paneled wall — the effect is a stylish, sophisticated space.

“I don’t follow any rules when choosing a wall,” says Jeffrey Johnson, owner of Jeffrey Design in Dallas. He uses a wall feature as a way to accomplish the homeowner’s decorating goals.

“A fireplace may be in an odd place. By highlighting another area of the room, you can create an elegant or dramatic new focal point,” he says.

Options for wall features have expanded since the heavy-colored walls of the 1990s, due in large part to the easy availability of new materials from the Internet and local sources.

Textured or intricately patterned wallpaper has become popular in recent years and is used to add elegance, say to a dining room or to reflect a child’s or parent’s hobby in a bedroom or a study. Photographs printed on sheets of wall-

paper are popular choices. New printing techniques make it possible for homeowners to customize their wallpaper or choose from famous photographs.

In a bedroom, a unique headboard can be created against one wall with sconces added on either side of the bed for a dramatic effect.

Tracy Crabtree, owner of Tracy Crabtree Painting in Dallas, uses special-finish techniques to accent walls. One technique is a specialized glaze known as Venetian plaster, which requires four to five coats of glaze with each layer sanded after its application. The result is a shiny surface that is tinted and sometimes finely lined.

“Venetian plaster adds depth, color and definition to the walls and ages the room a bit,” Crabtree says. “Many people today want new homes but don’t want them to look new. Venetian plaster adds a traditional, aged feel.”

Silver or gold leafing is another popular wall treatment that can impart either a contemporary or traditional feel, depending on its application. Crabtree recommends applying thin sheets of market-priced silver or gold to one wall, since “metallics can be overwhelming otherwise.”

Bringing the outdoors inside with a wall feature is a trend that began around 2010, according to Johnson. Stone or wood veneers added to a wall, around a fireplace or on the ceiling complement the yard, trees, deck or patio.

“Hardwood flooring isn’t just for floors,” he says. “The wood can make you feel that you never left the outdoors or vice-versa.”

Another material not typically associated with wall décor is lighting. Often mounted on a baseboard, the lighting shoots up the wall to enhance mood and add color.

“The lighting doesn’t have to be white,” Johnson says. “You can choose blue, for example, or a multiple of colors. It all depends on what you are trying to create in that room.”

Decorating just one wall permits easy experimentation for those who are a little unsure of the options. One wall can be easily painted, colors can be tested and the arrangement of art or photographs can be refigured.

An accent wall is one of the simplest ways to add interest and sophistication to any room.

Carin Hughes (carinhughes@hotmail.com) is a freelance writer based in Dallas.