HOME SWEET HOME

Personality makes the room

Is there a room in your home that's looking a little plain? Perhaps what it needs is an infusion of personality.

To add zest to a room, first determine what it is that you like. Browse through design books and talk to friends and relatives for suggestions. Once you've found some pictures or images that interest you, study them. Find out what furniture and accessories work well together, and why.

An old piece of furniture or antique could be just what your room is missing. It could be a painted bookshelf, a solid wood armoire, or an old unpainted chair that needs some tender loving care.

You may want to choose a theme for your room. The possibilities are endless. Themes provide an opportunity to showcase collections, works of art or crafts. Finding a theme will also help you to simplify your purchases for that room.

The great thing about a theme is that is usually reflects the personality of you, your family or the place you live. For example, a golf-themed den could include an old golf club, trophies, golf memorabilia and other golf-related items.

One suggestion might be to create a family history theme. This could include old photos, artifacts and mementos relating to family members stretching back many generations. Including the whole family in this project would be very educational for all, especially for younger children.

A fresh use of colour, flowers or hanging wall art can add a whole new dimension to a room as well. Choose a paint that complements other design elements such as pillows, curtains, chair seats and table cloths. A vase of fresh flowers can bring life into a room, and it doesn't cost much to do. Silk plants will do the trick, too, but they'll need constant dusting.

Artwork can give depth, texture and style to any room. Whether it's a limited edition framed print, a poster, a piece of stained glass, old game boards or kitchen utensils, the more creative you are, the more likely you'll add some real personality to your room.

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