

8 Home & Small Office Decorating Tips

- Place art in every room, even the powder room, bathrooms and kitchen/break room. Your art could be framed original art or prints, colorful area menus hung in the kitchen, old movies posters in a break room, sculpture, cultural artifacts such as masks and shields collected while traveling overseas, and , of course, well lit displays of your product or service.
- When shopping at yard sales, thrift shops, and flea markets, think outside the box. Don't look at an object as it is now. Can it be cleaned up, repainted, taken apart, used in a new way? Can it be combined with a fabric or object you already have? Is it representative of your product, service, market, clients?
- When establishing your art and accessories for the office, decide on one central theme. If you choose a garden theme, you could include classical botanical prints, flowers, birds and flowers together. Don't then include fishing rods, catch baskets, fishing fly displays, and mounted big-mouth bass. Be creative, but stick to the central theme.
- Hanging art at "eye level" is no longer considered correct. Whose eye level are you going to use? Yours? Your assistant's? Your partner's? Your Uncle Otto's? And all of you are probably of different heights. Unless you are purposely hanging "gallery style", art is hung much lower today and almost always in relationship to a piece of furniture so as to create a vignette. Look at the art in your office and consider lowering it 3-6" to bring it into relation to the rest of the room.
- Books, especially large-size books, are one of your best decorating tools. You can use them as bookends, to raise table lamps that are too short, create tablescapes, or use them as filler inside boxes and chests that you then show open with something else displayed on top. They add formality and credibility to an office setting.
- To create a tablescape, the basic start is one tall vertical, one long horizontal, and a full mass where they join. From there, let your eye and your own good taste be your guide, but keep the total number of objects to an odd number.
- Try to have life in every room and this is through plants. They don't have to be real plants, but they do have to look real. Have greenery, whether potted trees and plants or good quality silk flowers, somewhere in each room to create the impression of freshness and life.
- Be sure to add a little "shine" to each room. This can be done by adding a polished metal item, such as brass candlesticks, a silver bowl, or even a glass bowl full of candy wrapped in metallic papers.