

## Secrets of Interior Design: The Finishing Touch

Accessorizing is the finishing touch that so many people disregard when decorating their home and it is this essential step that gives a home that personal touch. As a decorator, I find this stage in the process to be the most difficult for my clients. The reason for this is that too often clients do not budget for accessories and when we reach this final stage, the idea of spending a significant amount more on coffee table books, throws, and artifacts seems inconceivable. However, omitting these accent pieces simply leaves you with wallpaper, paint, furniture, and fabric and it leaves me, the decorator, feeling like I did not finish the job I was hired to do. Speaking metaphorically, it's like going to a baker to have a cake made and then instructing them to leave off the icing. That would be weird. The same holds true when decorating a house. I understand and can appreciate the predicament clients find themselves in when it comes time for the decorator to accessorize. In order to make this part of the process a bit easier to swallow and perhaps a little fun, I would like to provide a few interior decorator tips. This way, when you find yourself at this pinnacle stage, there will hopefully be no surprises.

- Tip # 1: Discuss a budget for accessories with your decorator at the beginning and put that money aside specifically for this purpose.
- Tip # 2: Have a discussion with your decorator about what they consider to be accessories. For instance, some decorators may consider artwork an accessory and if this is the case then it will be necessary to allocate a substantial amount of money for this part of the budget.
- Tip # 3: Keep in mind, accent pieces can be costly even if it is not artwork. A beautiful bowl that your decorator thinks will look “perfect” in your dining room and will be the “focus of the room” can cost the same as your dining room table. This may seem like a shock but remember, it will be the “focus piece” the thing that everyone looks at and compliments when they enter the room.
- Tip # 4: Don't be afraid to spend a considerable part of your budget on your accessories. When these accent pieces begin to transform your house into a home, it will all be worth it.
- Tip # 5: Allow your decorator to finish the house as they see fit. This may mean draping a throw ever so perfectly over your bed or placing a family picture in just the right spot in your living room. Although these actions may seem insignificant, it can make all the difference in a room.
- Tip # 6: Have fun and enjoy the process from start to finish!

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