



Sheila Hahn

Personalizing Your Home

Decorating your home isn't all about replicating the "latest trends" of the season. I can't tell you how many of our clients enter a design consultation thinking they want that polished "show home" feel. The truth of the matter is you also need to incorporate things in your space that make you feel good. Personalizing your own home is all about decorating to stay and surrounding yourself with meaningful items that represent the "real you".

Adding certain items in your home can be enough to give it that authentic, comfortable feel. Even if you're not an avid antique collector, consider antiques. They can add a great sense of culture and style to any room. Collections are one of the best ways to allow you to display your personality throughout your entire home. They can also be combined with other decorating styles, resulting in an

original eclectic look that will last for years.

The kitchen is one of the most utilized areas of your home. It's also a wonderful place to really experiment with décor. Items such as unusual bird cages or beautiful pieces of art will spice up any kitchen immediately. You may want to consider replacing any dated cupboard hardware with distinctive door and cabinet hinges. If you can't find a particular design, color or pattern that catches your eye, custom-made hardware is another option. You can even go one step further and replace your standard glass pantry door panel with something more decorative and modern. Stained glass comes in a variety of patterns and color to suit any decorating style. Changes such as this can drastically alter the entire look of your kitchen, giving it the incredible personality that it deserves. Another commonly overlooked area in the kitchen is the range hood. Paint the hood with a striking new color - you'll be sure to add instant style to the room.

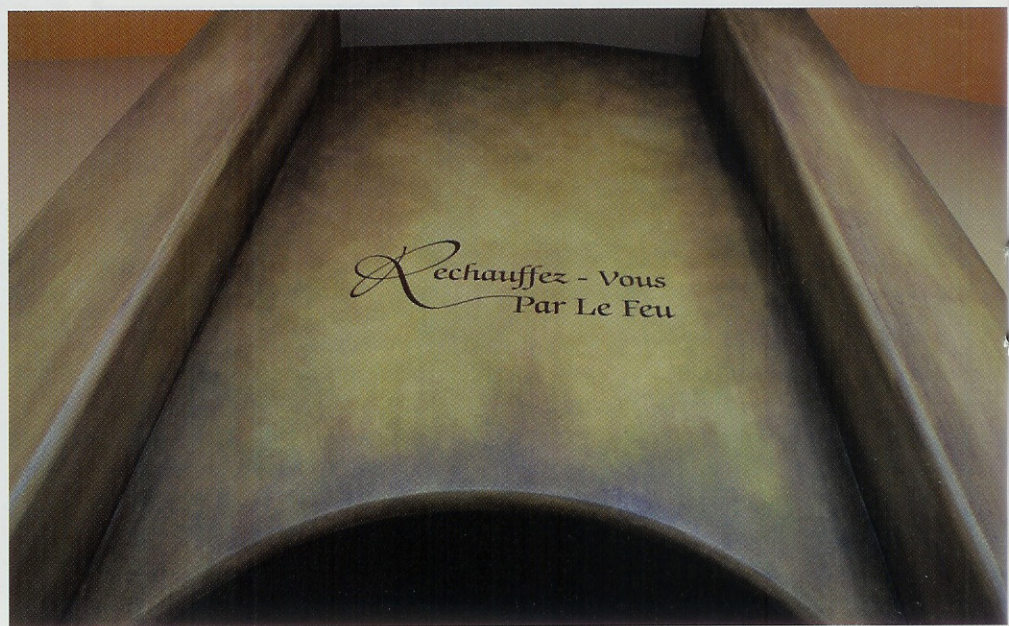
When it comes to walls, faux painting techniques are one of the easiest ways to personalize any space. It is one of the best ways to create incredible texture and visual interest. There are

a great number of faux finishing books available that will show you how to create simple yet effective techniques. If you want something a bit more elaborate, you may want to consider hiring an artist to do the job. A regular drywall fireplace can be turned into a work of art by applying a faux finish or adding an inspirational quote that evokes comforting thoughts each time you enter the room. The possibilities of using techniques such as these are endless - remember, think outside the box!

And don't limit your creativity to walls. Give your floors a great dose of personality by adding subtle designs to otherwise plain floors. Many pre-cut templates are available and offer a wonderful variety of colors that can be completely customized to suit any décor. A few coats of polyurethane will provide the protection you'll need and enhance the color.

There are many ways to personalize your home to make it as special as it can be. The key element in decorating the "perfect home" is to ensure that it is indeed a true reflection of you. **R**

E-mail your decorating questions and photos to studio180@shaw.ca or visit website www.studio180.biz.



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