



WALL ACCESSORIES

Do you get “hung up” over wall accessories and wonder what to hang, where to hang and how to hang? Actually, anything that will lie flat can be used on a wall, including pictures, plaques, rugs, mirrors, clocks, plates, trays, posters, maps, quilts, candle sconces and mounted collections.

Wall accessories will enhance any room in your home. Pictures and wall arrangements for your bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and hallway should be as carefully planned as for your family room and living room. The items that you select should reflect the interests and tastes of the people who live there.

Accessories need not be expensive. Original art work can be costly, but some good reproductions can be purchased economically. Charming original painting can also be purchased at reasonable cost from local artists at arts and crafts shows or at small shops in your own community or in areas that you are visiting. An interesting wall hanging can make a useful, long-lasting souvenir of a vacation.

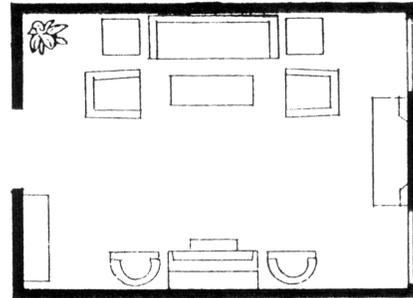
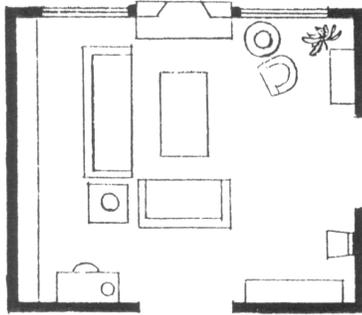
Think of new ways for using the things that you already have. Paint expandable wooden cup racks a bright accent color and mount on bedroom walls to hold ties, scarves or jewelry. Several colorful hot pads, cutting boards, wicker place mats or attractive molds can be use to make interesting arrangements in the kitchen. Small acrylic paintings, amusing drawings or mirrors might be used to dress up the bathroom. A grouping of several small mirrors can add interest to a drab hallway.

WHAT KIND AND HOW MANY?

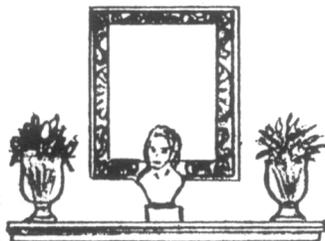
A common tendency is to over-accessorize the walls. Some blank wall space is needed in every room so that furniture can be seen and appreciated. Walls that are too “busy” detract from other furnishings.

The kind and number of accessories needed depends on:

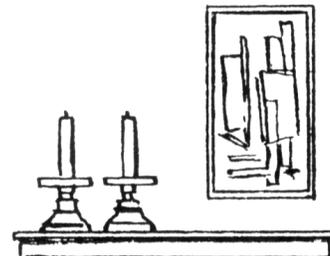
- *Size and arrangement of room.* Walls define the boundaries of a room and serve as a background for furnishings. Space for accessories may be limited both in a small room and in one broken up by several doors and windows. Wise use of the available space can make a room look larger and more unified. Some rooms are designed so that furniture can be grouped near the center of the room. This type of arrangement allows for more flexibility in wall treatments.



- *Use of the room.* Accessories may be decorative, functional or both. For instance, a family room need functional accessories such as shelves to hold books, a wall lamp and a clock. Decorative accessories, such as pictures, photographs, weavings, framed crocheted doilies and examples of grandmother’s quilting will add interest and personality to the room.
- *Mood of the room.* There are styles in accessories just as there are styles in furniture. Accessories should reflect the mood or feeling in a room. For instance, you would expect to see an elegant mirror in a formal living room. But the same mirror would look out-of-place in a family room furnished in pine and chintz.



Formal Accessories



Informal Accessories

- *Other furnishings.* Beautifully furnished rooms or those which have a natural focal point may need fewer wall accessories. However, a decorative wall treatment can help to create a center of interest in plain rooms.

Plan your wall arrangements carefully. Imagine yourself as a visitor seeing your room for the first time. Think through the following questions:

1. What does this room really need and where? Really look at each wall, especially the are that you see as you first enter the room, any wall space over furniture, a corner that lacks interest and even the wall space over doorways.
2. What kinds of wall accessories or arrangements would best compliment the room setting?
3. What things do you have that are still suitable?
4. What others should you buy to complete your decorating scheme?

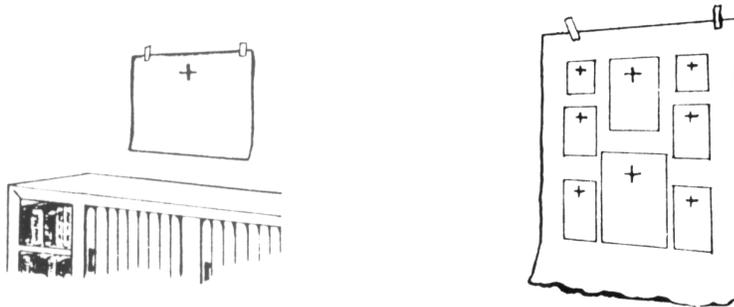
HOW TO ARRANGE WALL ACCESSORIES

There are as many different wall arrangements as types of accessories. A large or important object, such as a painting or mirror, should be hung alone for emphasis. Some accessories are designed to be used as a pair or set. Several small unrelated objects may need to be combined into one large grouping for more importance. To be effective, an accessory or grouping should be:

- The right size and shape for the space it occupies.
- Harmonious with the furnishings in the room, so that it seems to “belong” in the room setting.
- Visible against the background.

Experiment to find the best location or arrangement on a wall. If hanging a single object or a matched set, cut paper patterns the exact size of each one. Mark where the hooks or nails should go and fasten to the wall with an easily removable tape. Look at the arrangements from a distance. Move it as necessary to find the best location. Remove the pattern after the hooks or nails have been driven into the wall.

When arranging a group of unrelated accessories, cut a piece of paper the size of the wall space to be covered. Lay the paper on the floor and arrange the accessories on top of it. After you find an arrangement you like, trace around each item and mark where the hooks or nails will go. Tape the paper on the wall and use this as a guide for hanging.

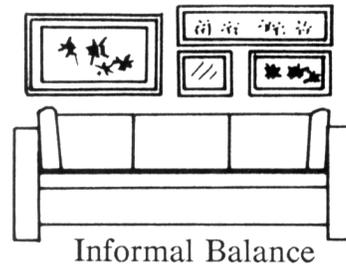
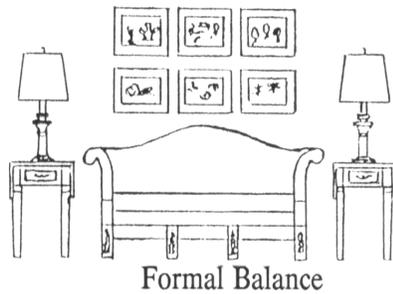


GUIDELINES FOR ARRANGING WALL ACCESSORIES

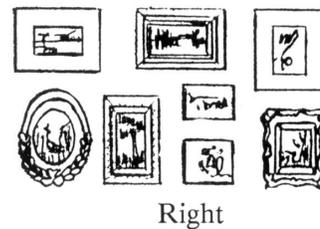
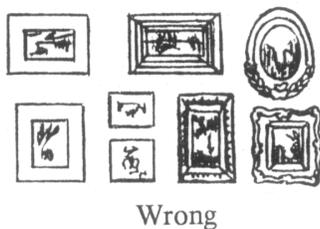
Arrange your art work with care. Hang some things close together in groups rather than scattered indiscriminately. Give others solitary prominence and change them frequently. (If a piece hangs in one spot for too long, you will eventually stop seeing it.) Although there are no hard and fast rules for arranging wall accessories, the following guidelines will help you to create an attractive, well-designed grouping.

1. The center of interest should usually be at eye level. Eye level depends upon the location and type of activity in the room. People will be standing in a hallway and sitting in a living room.

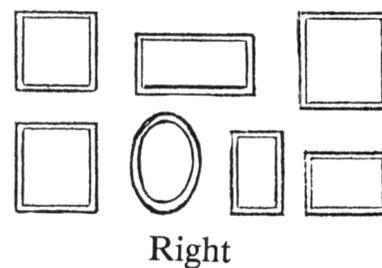
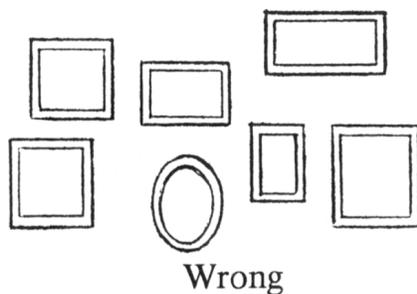
2. A picture or grouping should be placed over or near an appropriately scaled piece of furniture, unless it is large or important enough to stand alone.
3. Arrangements should be balanced. There are two types of balance: (1) Formal or symmetrical and (2) informal or asymmetrical. Formal balance implies stability and restfulness and is most often used in more formal surroundings. In an informally balanced arrangement, the two halves are always identical or a mirror image of each other. Informal balance is more casual in feeling. These arrangements are often more interesting, however, they may take longer to arrange since the two halves are visually balanced but not identical.



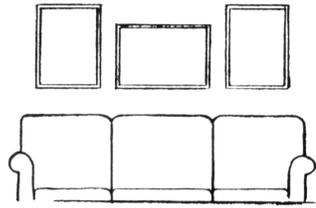
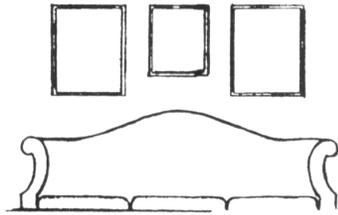
Balance visual weights in a grouping. Elaborate frames, dark mats and oil paintings appear to be heavier than watercolors, prints and pastels. Distribute the weights throughout the grouping rather than placing those that appear to be heavier all to one side.



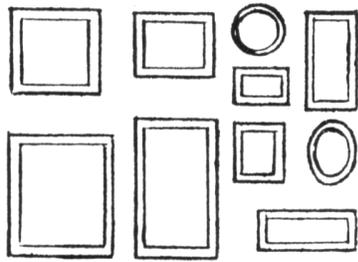
4. Relate pictures or groupings to architectural lines and the dominant lines of the furniture closest to the wall accessory.
5. A grouping should satisfy the human need for order. Arrange pictures or objects so they form at least one vertical and one horizontal line.



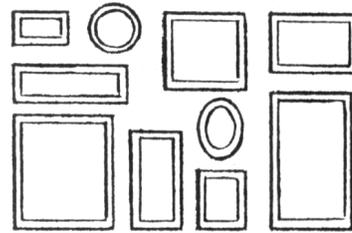
If possible, either the tops or bottoms of all pictures in a grouping should be in a straight line. **Never** staircase pictures except over a stairway.



6. Add variety to a grouping by including several geometric shapes in the arrangement. Too much “sameness” can lead to monotony.

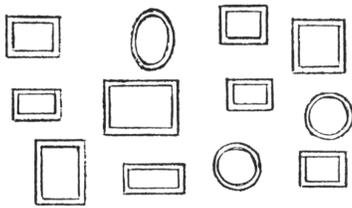


Wrong

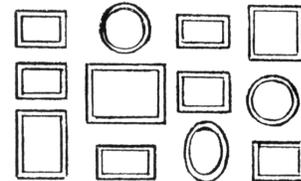


Right

7. Keep the spacing to a minimum between pictures in a grouping. Leave enough space to show off each item but not more than half the width of any one picture.

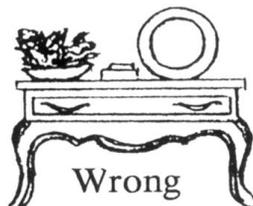


Wrong



Right

If a single picture is hung over a piece of furniture, it should be close enough to appear as part of the unit.



Wrong



Right

8. Remember – a mirror reflects whatever is opposite it. Place so the reflected image is pleasing.
 9. When hanging pictures over the sofa, the lower edge of the frame should be 6 to 8 inches from the top of the sofa. When seated, a person's head should not touch the frame.
 10. View the arrangement from a distance to see if the eye moves smoothly from one part to another. If the eye tends to jump around a grouping, it is not balanced.
 11. If hanging pictures that have direction, such as faces or birds flying, place the direction of movement toward the center of the arrangement.
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THE MECHANICS OF HANGING

Whenever possible, use an invisible means for hanging, so that attention will not be distracted from an accessory. Nails, hook and nail combinations, and special picture hooks with adhesive backings are most commonly used.

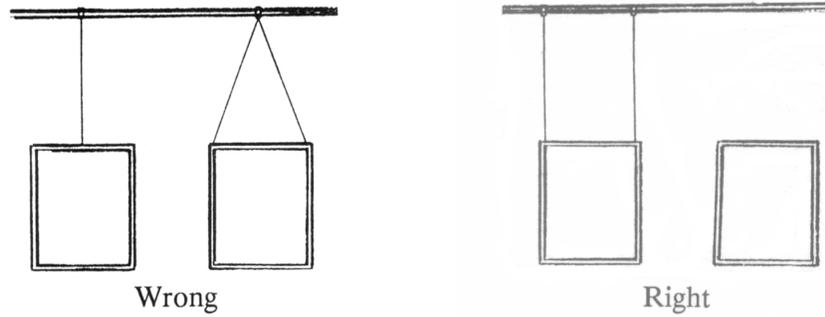
To determine the type of supports needed, investigate the kind of walls and ceilings that you have in your room. Nails and hooks can be driven or screwed into some types of walls. In frame houses with interior walls of plaster or wallboard, the wooden studs (upright structural posts) must be located in order to anchor the nail into something solid. Studs are most often 16 inches apart, which may place them just where you do **not** want to hang a picture. The traditional method of finding studs is to pound on the wall with your knuckles. The wall will sound hollow everywhere except over the studs. If this method does not work, a “stud-finder” can be purchased at a hardware store.

Certain types of bolts expand when they are pushed through plaster or wallboard, which prevents them from falling out. There are also plugs that can be driven into concrete, leaving a projection on the surface. (If you are renting your home, be sure to check with the landlord first.) Although these plugs disfigure the wall, the holes can be closed up again and will become invisible after the wall is painted.

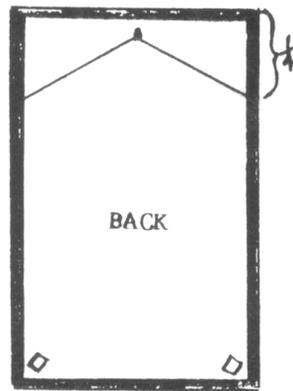
If you do not want to use nails and hooks, there are picture hooks on super heavy tapes that will adhere to the wall. They will not stick well on heavily textured walls, however. Be sure to check the picture weight recommended since they are not as strong as nails or hooks.

Another option to using individual hooks and nails for your wall accessories is to use a metal picture rail or wooden molding. You can get special picture and textile clips, hooks, and rods to use when hanging artwork from this molding. If there isn't one already installed, create your own by using an extendable spring-loaded rod that is available from most photographic equipment shops. Hang everything from it with nylon line or even ribbon.

If a very heavy or large picture must be hung from the molding with wire, place the wires parallel to each other and paint them the color of the wall. Only round pictures or objects should be hung from wires which form an inverted “V.” Avoid elaborate cords and tassels which may detract from the picture.



Pictures have a tendency to tip forward when hung. To prevent this, place the screw eyes for wire $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way down from the top of the frame. Pieces of foam rubber, cork or thumb tacks placed at the lower corners will also help pictures to lie flat and hang straight.



If pictures are to hang on a plastered wall, place adhesive tape over the spot where the hook or nail will go to prevent the wall surface from cracking. Driving nails in at an angle will also help.

LIGHTING

A wide variety of fixtures are on the market, ranging from a picture light to adjustable spotlights and framing projectors. If you are lighting a single painting, the idea is to place a fixture so that there is not distracting reflection from the frame, glass or varnish surfaces. To get the best angle, experiment with a clip-on work lamp attached to a long cord.

Conventional picture lights are easily installed and maintained, but they are inclined to throw light on the top of a painting rather than lighting the entire picture. Downlights are the next simplest form to install. They can be mounted on or recessed into the ceiling, or they can be fixed to a track. The light is controlled either by a dimmer switch or according to the wattage of the bulbs used. The main

disadvantage is that the beam from an ordinary downlight also forms an elliptical shape on the wall beside the painting. Pictures can also be lighted from below by placing uplights on the floor or by using small spotlights concealed behind or in vases that are placed on mantels or other flat surfaces. The ideal, but most expensive solution is to use a framing projector.

When there are a number of pictures on a wall, wall-washers may be the best solution because they light the whole area. They should be fixed in much the same way as downlights or concealed behind cornices or valances. The pictures and prints can then be moved around at will without disturbing the balance of light. The main disadvantage with this method is that there is a lack of contrast between art and wall. The textural qualities of the art work may also be reduced. Spotlights can also be trained on individual pictures. Track lighting with canister spots is probably the most versatile lighting system and can be added to and adjusted as needed. Uplighting can also be used to give an interesting contrast of shadow and light and are inconspicuous in a room. Light can be thrown up from beneath by adjustable uplights or by wall-washers set on sections of track fixed along the top of the baseboards.

If lighting a textile wall hanging, experiment first with a clip-on work lamp to see the kind of angle which will show up the interesting textural effects and weaves of the tapestry, rug, stitchery or quilt. Remember that any light projected full on the item will almost certainly flatten the texture and reduce the effect of a highly worked surface.

IDEAS ON WALL ACCESSORIES

Many of the guidelines given have been generalizations. A specific application may be contrary to these guidelines, but still be quite effective. For instance, anyone who spends a lot of time tying down, either by choice or necessity, might appreciate a painting on the ceiling. (Some of the most beautiful paintings in Venice are ceiling frescoes.)

An empty spot over the doorway may be just the place for a long, horizontal painting. A miniature painting is quite attractive when placed on a small easel on a table or chest.

Stained glass hanging must be place where light can come through it. This means hanging it in a window or using a source of artificial lighting from within the framing or behind the glass.

If you are hanging accessories on a patterned surface, be sure that the art will not be lost in the overall design. Mirrors and sconces are excellent choices as accessories on patterned walls. Simple, bold paintings are seen better than delicate, fine lined prints when contrasted against a heavily patterned surface. A simple, wide frame and a mat repeating a background color of the wallpaper will help to emphasize a picture.

If you are unsure whether to use two or more items together in a grouping, try standing the art pieces near each other for a few days before hanging them. See how well they work together. Do they “work” together well over a period of time? Perhaps their differences give an exciting feel to the

grouping. There needs to be some similarity, whether this common element is in the medium used, the subject matter, color of mat, same type of frame or other common theme.

Remember... most art is mobile. It can be moved around from one place to another. Keep your art accessories fresh by retiring various pieces, bringing out others and switching pieces around. Moving a painting from one location to another may make it seem almost new because different aspects will be emphasized. Arranging art is an art in itself and offer infinite possibilities for change, renewal and creativity.

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