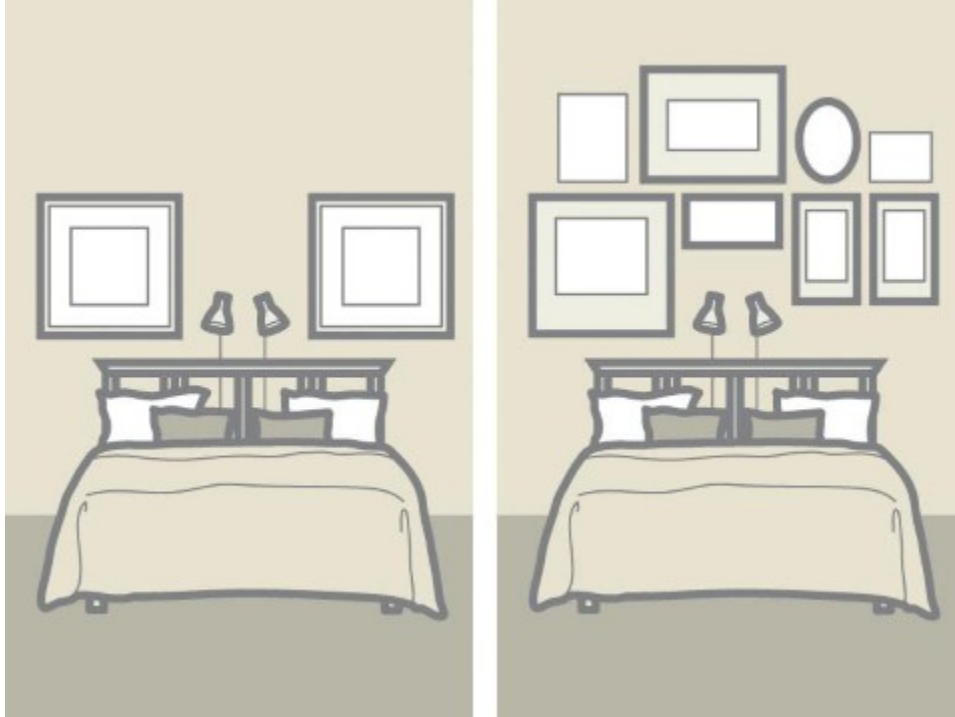


Accessorising: Grouping wall decorations

Wall decorations can turn a plain wall into a unique and expressive part of the home. The challenge in composing groups of wall decoration is to achieve a balance that gives each piece the attention it deserves. Wall decoration includes pictures, mirrors, decorative rugs and tapestries, and anything else you want to display on the wall.

Symmetry vs. asymmetry



Whenever you display more than one object, you need to decide whether to create a symmetrical or an asymmetrical display.

Symmetry tends to look classical and formal, while asymmetry looks more modern and casual.

The type of arrangement you choose depends on the objects you want to display and on the effect you wish to create.

Visual balance



Create a wall display with visual balance. Place the larger, heavier things lower down and the lighter objects higher up. (Keep in mind that dark items appear heavier than light ones of the same size.)

Balance the heavier items in one section of the display with one of equal weight in another part of the display.

Groups in a rectangle



Hanging elements of different sizes on a wall can create a cluttered impression unless you group them in a rectangular shape. Contrasting sizes and intensity creates dramatic effects in a rectangular group. Hang small pictures above large ones and light ones above dark ones.

Using a top line



One way to arrange wall decorations is to line up all the tops of pictures and decorations along the same top line. Choose a line that is parallel to the ceiling.

Using a base line



One way to arrange wall decorations is to line them up along the same bottom line. Choose a line that is parallel to the floor.

Using a picture shelf



A picture shelf has many possibilities for wall decoration. You can mix sizes and change or re-arrange pieces without putting too many holes in the wall.

A picture shelf can be used separately or in combination with decorations hanging on the wall. The shelf gives a neat and organised look.

Using a centre line



Hanging wall decorations according to an imaginary centre line is an alternative to lining them up on a top line or a base line. This is useful when you have wall decorations of different sizes.

Create the centre line at approximately eye level.

Applying the golden section



The golden section is a relationship between elements that occurs in nature and art, and results in compositions that are naturally pleasing to the eye.

To use the golden mean to hang wall decorations, draw an imaginary line $\frac{5}{8}$ of the way up the wall. Hang each wall decoration so that $\frac{3}{8}$ of its height is above this line.

An alternative is to imagine a line at eye level and hang pictures so that $\frac{5}{8}$ of their height is above this line.

The golden mean is commonly used to hang art in museums. It is also practical at home when hanging wall decorations of different sizes.

Accessorising: Placing groups on a wall

Place arrangements of accessories in the right location in the room to create balance and harmony. This prevents the room from looking heavy on one side, which gives the effect of its *‘tipping’* to one side. Here are some guidelines.

Follow lines



One way to hang picture groups is along an imaginary line that is at the same height as a line that already occurs in the room, such as a large piece of furniture or the top of a window or door frame.

Create lines



When you place accessories on different walls in the same room, line them up with each other. This creates a neater appearance.

Group with furniture



One way to create balance and harmony in a room is to place picture groups in a pleasing arrangement with the furniture. This anchors the pictures and prevents them from giving the impression that they are somehow separate from the rest of the room.

Accessorising: Especially for children

The general principles of working with accessories apply to children's areas as well. An extra consideration for children is the height of the accessories – place them so children will be able to see and enjoy them.

Displaying children's artwork



Hanging children's drawings is a way to follow their creative development. One way to display art is to hang it on a wire system. This makes a personal display and is easy for a child to see and change.

Place pictures at children's eye level so they also can enjoy them.