

# GRAYSLANE

*fall 2012*



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# SPACES

## It's the Little Things

Written by Anne Scardino

Photography by Rachel McGinn

Just like a fabulous outfit, a room is never complete without the right accessories. Despite the fact they are the last things added, home accessories have a big job to do. They must draw your eye just enough to accent the beauty of the furnishings, but not so much as to draw too much attention to themselves. Sounds simple enough, but this final stage of the design process can make or break even the best-designed room.

The most effective home accessories are often the most personal; they might include something special from a trip or a favorite item from a friend or loved one. A good decorator understands what matters to her clients and tries to work with it, or in some cases around it, because that is what makes the client's home their own. We should be surrounded by things we love; we don't want our home to look or feel like a sample house.

There are, however, accessories that can take any room from ordinary to fabulous. I love using boxes: lacquered, solid, or multi-colored, and stacked, or placed atop a mirrored silver tray, or even topped off with something whimsical, such as a shell. A cocktail-table book or two between the boxes adds dimension and interest; in fact, a stack of books, in addition to telling a lot about us, always works well.

Silver picture frames housing a few favorite shots do the trick, alongside a mercury glass candleholder and silver planter with a white orchid. (Only use white flowers – they go with everything!) Don't overdo the picture frames; you can always create a memory album for all those photos you want to keep near.

Take that favorite piece of art that your child made for you years ago and place it in an interesting frame. Or take something that holds great memories of a trip you have taken and display it, such as a mini Eiffel Tower and a Limoges box. On a side table or inside a glass cabinet, place a few thought-provoking John Derian paperweights and Ben's Garden trays. These little details add interest and personality.



An array of colored balls and an electric star candle are perfect atop an antique armoire. And don't forget the beauty of glassware, particularly liquor and wine bottles. Grouped together, they always look amazing.

Whatever you decide to use for accessories, make sure they say something about you, and again don't overdo it. Just as jewelry complements a well-dressed woman, too much can be overwhelming and distracting. The same goes for accessories – less is more.

For more of Anne's work visit [www.bellemaisondesignllc.com](http://www.bellemaisondesignllc.com)