



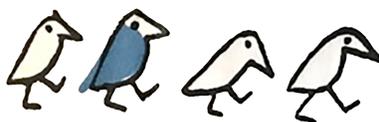
10 Steps to Transform the Look and Feeling of a Room



**Follow these steps as if you
were composing a painting with
three-dimensional objects.**



THE ARTFUL HOME
with LINDA APPLEWHITE



1. Clear the room of everything as if you are creating a blank canvas.
2. Define the focal point in the room. Sometimes there are two focal points - a fireplace and a view or television. Compose around one or all focal points if possible.
3. Place an area rug, if you have one, in relation to the focal point(s) and perimeter of the room. The rug defines the space and serves as the foundation of the room. The bigger the rug, the larger the space looks and feels.
4. Place the largest shapes on the rug around the focal point - sofas, loveseats chairs, armoires, consoles and televisions.
5. Place the next layer of smaller shapes around the focal point - side tables, coffee table, ottomans, small chairs and large plants.
6. Stand against all four walls and check for balance or imbalance in the room. Does it feel lopsided? Adjust the weight of furniture if necessary. Example: If a large armoire or TV screen overpowers the room, put something on the opposite side or wall to weight it that has a similar mass, or combine several items like a console with a large painting over it to balance the heavy side. Just like in a painting, a room should look and feel balanced.
7. Hang artwork or place sculpture in relation to the focal point(s) and large and small shapes in the room. Place paintings on the perimeter of

the room where you want to draw the eye throughout the composition.

8. Lighting is next. Put a minimum of three floor lamps and/or table lamps, ideally in a triangle in the room with the goal of balancing the light. Direct overhead light, if possible, on artwork and the coffee table. Also bounce ceiling lights off painted walls, if possible, instead of pointing down. Put all ceiling lighting and decorative ceiling fixtures on dimmers. Again, like a piece of artwork, it is important to balance light throughout the space.

9. Fill in the composition with detail through color, shape, texture and pattern in the form of accessories - pillows, table plants, coffee table books, treasured display objects, collections, etc. Group like with like to create unity or put a group of small objects on a large tray to reduce clutter. Place accessories on surfaces in uneven numbers - three pillows on a sofa instead of four. Create a strong focal point in the center of the

room by placing an object with visual strength and weight either alone or adjacent to those of lesser strength in terms of size or visual impact. Create additional minor focal points around the room to draw the eye throughout the composition.

10. If there's no nature in the room, go in the yard, cut some flowers or green leafy branches from a bush or tree, put in a vase and place where you can smell and admire. It is important to always have nature in a room. You can also add color with a big bowl of seasonal fruit or vegetables on a table, like red pomegranates during the holidays, orange pumpkins in the fall or a bowl of seashells in the summer. Of course, potted plants can serve the same purpose. I encourage placing them in every room in your home particularly if you love plants, have a green thumb or someone will take good care of them so they will thrive. Plants add so much color, shape and texture to a room plus they bring the outdoors in which is soothing to our souls and senses.

Be sure you shop throughout all rooms and areas of your property, including your garden, garage, closets and storage areas. Think outside the box and place furniture, artwork and accessories in alternate places in your home which will make them feel new again. Be creative, improvise and have fun. Use the room for a few days and see how it feels. Make changes or adjustments where needed until the composition of the room feels great to you and your family.

Remember - it's not just the way a room looks, it's the way it feels.

May your home always be filled with beauty,
Xo,

Linda



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See room transformations in my portfolio at www.lindaapplewhite.com