

ENTRYWAYS

The formal or guest entry

What do you want your guests to say or think as they approach your front door and when they step foot inside? Seriously answer that question. When I asked myself that, I wanted the answer to be one of the following:

- WOW!
- This is going to be fun
- I feel so welcome
- I could hang out here

What do you want your family to say or think as they come through the back door?

Seriously answer that question as well. When I asked myself that, I wanted the answer to be one of the following:

- There's no place like home
- It's so good to be home
- If I don't put my shit away in the right place, she may kill me

The formal or guest entry

From the time you approach your home, the impression begins. Any detail that is off can set the tone and attach a feeling.

For example,

- Is the address clearly visible?
- Is there an obvious place you park?
- Is there a pleasing design element that greets you?

Tip: All of my front outdoor pots are filled with floral from THE LOFT. It never needs to be watered and doesn't die! We enjoy fresh floral in the back.

- Is there a comfortable way to get to the front door and is it maintained?
- Is there a clear way to announce you are there?

Your formal or guest entry is the perfect place to set the tone of your home. Is this home going to be bold, fun, dramatic, cozy etc.? The items in your entry should introduce the personality. For example, this is the perfect place for any of the following:

- A statement chandelier to make an impression and add light
- Artwork that grounds the home's personality
- A scent that adds to emotion
- A mirror or a collection of mirrors to expand, reflect and open the space.
- A rug to define the entry
- A wall treatment, wallpaper or bold color to add individuality
- A bench or furniture piece for function or a place to take off or put on shoes if you don't want shoes in your home.
- A landing spot for guests' "stuff".

Take a look at your entry and ask yourself: Does this foyer say what I want it to? Is your entrance making an entrance?

Your family or back entry is the perfect place to add sanity to the end of the day. For example, do you have a plan for:

- Coats and shoes? Do you wear them into the interior of the home or want to take them off once in the door?
- Hats, scarves, gloves etc.
- Mail
- Sports equipment
- Backpacks, bags and purses
- Groceries and purchases
- Schedules for family coordination
- Dog leashes
- Dog food and bowls

Some ideas to think about:

- Use closed furniture pieces, i.e.: a console with doors instead of a table with legs. This is a place to stash your purse, mail, etc.
- What if the art on your wall was hinged and open behind the picture for keys or mail etc.
- What about a great basket with a lid or box for shoes or bags?
- What about adding a shelf or a shelving unit inside of a coat closet for all things dropped.
- Add hooks on the back side of a console for dog leashes.
- Turn a bookcase into a closet.

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Whether you have several entryways or just one, you can live in peace and harmony. It is a lot easier if you are building or remodeling but even if you are settled into your home, ask yourself the question....What do I want people to think or feel when they step inside this door? And then listen for the answer.

We're here to help when you hear it.

Lorele