

STYLE YOUR BOOKCASE LIKE A PRO



By
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Finding your Style:

One of my favourite things to do is Styling a bookcase. I love starting with empty shelves and a pile of personal items and turning it into a display that my clients are proud of, that feels like "Home" to them. And it's easier than you might think!

The first thing you will need to do is Find your Style. Finding your Style is really a matter of taking a look at the things around you and what styles you gravitate towards. I like to suggest that my clients go on Houzz and start an idea book. Simply save the pictures of interiors that you like. At first glance these spaces may appear to be all over the place, but when you really look at them as a whole you will start to see some common threads.

Are the spaces I like well organized and geometric or does it look like organized clutter?

Are the spaces light and airy?

Are there organic elements like branches or seashells in the space?

Is there a colour theme? All one colour? A colour palette?

Designer tip:

Look in your closet for inspiration! Often the colours we choose for our clothing are the colours we are most comfortable living in...so why not use that in your home decor?

Let's start with the bookcase on the cover of this e book. When I arrived at my clients home they had assembled a number of items that they wanted to display on their new bookcase.



Here you see an assortment of books, vases and personal pictures. When choosing personal pictures ***I recommend selecting similar scaled photos and similar styled picture frames. A combination of Black and silver frames, or white and gold frames for example.***

Before:



Let's look at some of the questions asked in ***Finding your Style***. This client preferred a more organized look, not cluttered but not minimalist either. She had some blue elements that she wanted incorporated into the room, so I used that as a subtle colour accent.

After:

Notice that I fronted a coffee table book that has blue on the cover in order to highlight the accent colour. I also like to include fresh flowers whenever possible. The little flowers on the bottom shelf were picked from her garden that day!



What items to display?

When it comes to knowing what to display on your bookcase it is best to think about what you want your bookcase to say about you. It doesn't necessarily have to be a "true" representation of your current life. You can also think of your bookcase as an "Inspiration Board" as well. Like, you WANT to travel but haven't really gotten there yet. Why not display a small globe or a picture of a map from a destination you long to visit?

Books - I like to use a combination of novels, coffee table style books and reference books. Try stacking them both vertically and horizontally, stacked against the edge of the bookcase and centered on the shelf. Don't forget to try fronting books!

Collections - Try to keep collections together. They have more impact that way. Notice the small grouping of pottery on the right hand side middle shelf.

Photo's - photo's should be of a similar scale. Don't have a 4" x 6" picture of a large group of people with a 5" x 7" head shot beside it. Pictures in frames should also match the size of the space they are in... have a look below at the before and after.

The unexpected - Consider displaying an unusual piece that will start a conversation or a picture of someone you don't know. An interesting face that tells an unknown story.

Before:



I really didn't make a lot of changes to this space. I relocated the grouping of three pictures to the other bookcase, shifted the black and white picture to the left and added a blue picture to balance out the blue of the other side.

After:

I also set the sculpture on the top shelf on a stack of blue books and added a seashell with some lovely blue iridescent shades in front of the Inuit carvings.



Designer Tip:

Notice how the scale of the pictures on the top shelf above the TV have been improved in the AFTER picture. Always be aware of the negative space!



Before we started this project the room had no real focal point or style.



Here you see how the two sides relate to each other. The bookcases are neat and tidy while displaying all of this homeowner's treasures, there is a definite focal point and style!

A final thought:

Don't be afraid to make a mistake! The great thing about Bookcase Styling is that it's super easy to change! You can change it out with your moods or with the seasons. I recently had a client tell me that Styling her bookcase is her new hobby! Well... "Obsession" I think is the word she used. Now go gather your treasures and start STYLING!

Still need help?

We are here to help! Call us today to book your Styling appointment! 613-889-3439



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