

Add colour to your home with a beautiful feature wall



LOUISE LAMBERT
Through The Artist's Eye

Just as a good painting needs a focal point, so does a feature wall.

The most impactful thing you can do to enhance the decor of a room is create a feature wall. A strong feature wall, once called an accent wall, can help balance a room and focus on a space. The rest of the room can remain simple.

The feature wall provides the foundation for the room's feel, along with the decorative colours and textures you choose. If you are limited by budget or space and can only do one thing to improve that room, create a feature wall. It will simplify the rest of your decorating and stretch your budget.

An attractive feature wall will have even more impact if it is the first thing you see when you walk into the room. A fireplace can become part of a great feature wall, but not by itself.

You can create a feature wall using an accent colour, textures, captivating artwork and furniture placement. Your artwork can provide the basis of your colour palate. You can then repeat the colors that you love in the artwork throughout your accessories.

When using art to enhance your furniture, consider furniture size and pair art with the correct sized furniture pieces. In general, art hanging over a piece of furniture should not extend beyond the outside edges of the furniture. Keep the art about two-thirds to three-quarters the length of the furniture. The bottom of the frame should sit only four to eight inches above a tabletop.

When you are creating groupings of art pieces, keep in mind that the eye is always looking for a horizon or straight line. You may wish to layout your arrangement on the floor and snap a picture of it before committing to your plan. It will save you a lot of nail holes. You could create paper templates and stick them to the wall to see how you like the arrangement.

Another trick of the trade used by professional decorators is to keep the outside edges of a grouping as straight as possible, not offset as if you are going upstairs, unless you actually are moving up steps. In that case, climbing art works.



Contributed

A lake-and-beach themed featured wall takes center stage with 'Serenity Granted,' a classic oil by painted by Louise Lambert, appointed with objects of interest.

Your feature wall can be created in many new and different ways. You can paint, hang eye-catching artwork, decorate with bold graphics or texturize with natural materials. These key elements provide wonderful ways for you to define the essence of you and reflect it through your feature wall.

Feature walls offer you a chance for your personality to shine through and show what you love; after all it's your home. Have fun with it.

For over a decade, Lambert has been painting and exporting art, featuring the beautiful Okanagan Valley, to local and international clients. She proudly showcases her art at Wine Country Studios and specializes in customized art.

Go online to winecountrystudios.ca and loumarart.houzz.com for illustrations. She encourage your questions and feedback; feel free to email Louise at loumarart@shaw.ca.

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Okanagan residents challenged to use water wisely this summer

Mayors in the Okanagan are challenging each other, and the residents of their communities, to conserve water this spring and summer as part of the Valley-wide Make Water Work campaign.

"Last year's experience with drought, and previous drought years, has shown us the importance of working together in the Okanagan on water conservation efforts, where water is all connected," West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater said. "I'm proud to personally take the Make Water Work challenge, doing my part to get the most out of the water I use and conserve, starting with making sure to water plants, not pavement."

Mayors from Osoyoos to Armstrong also pledged to take the challenge.

Make Water Work was launched in 2011 with the goal of tackling outdoor residential water use in the summer.

The City of West Kelowna is already in Stage 1 of water restrictions and will likely move to Stage 2 soon, Findlater said.

For the first time, West Kelowna city council is asking for regular reports from staff on the reservoir levels, he said.

"We had a scare last year with the drought. We need a drought plan."

The Make Water Work plant collection, a project encouraging low-water landscapes, is also expanding this year.

"The collection has been expanded to include 54 plants, including beautiful grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees, perfect for the dry Okanagan climate," said Corinne Jackson, spokesperson for the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Nine garden centres in the Okanagan are participating in the program.

Those who take the online Make Water Work challenge will be entered to win several prizes, including a grand prize of a Water Wise yard upgrade worth \$6,000. Residents can take the challenge and find more information about water restrictions for their community by visiting makewaterwork.ca.