

Interior Investments

How to Display Collectibles

By Dana W. Todd



Bryan J. Pulte

We spend a good part of our lives collecting – antique china, crystal figurines, sports memorabilia, old pottery, Christmas ornaments – the list is varied and unique to each individual’s taste. Sometimes vacations and excursions are primarily focused on adding to our collections. When we get home and review our collectibles, we think, “Now what am I going to do with this?”

“Almost everyone collects something,” says interior designer Bryan Pulte. “We spend the first half of our lives adding to our collections

and the second half selling and or disbursing the collection.” Along the way, we try to display these items in our homes so others understand a little of who we are and what we are about. Additionally, people want to have the items that interest them or define important aspects of their lives to remind them of significant events or feed a fascination with history within reach.

“If ever one of my clients is short on accessories, I ask, ‘What do you collect?’” he says. “I have designed rooms displaying collections of silver boxes, paper weights, and books among others. Many homeowners don’t realize what they have and how it can add flair and personality to their rooms.”

Pulte designs around a few general principles:

Find a reason to group disparate items. When merging two or more collections in a single room, you must find a common characteristic such as texture or scale to make the grouping feel cohesive and complete. Refined items should be grouped together; more rustic or earthy collectibles should be moved to another display site and presentation style. “If necessary, alternate bookshelves to display odd items and know when to say it’s just not going to work,” Pulte advises.

Collections need not be expensive. Don’t feel as if your collectibles are not worthy of display space if they are inexpensive. Pulte has incorporated garage sale collectibles such as old kitchen utensils and salt and pepper shakers into a room. “An individual’s collection is personal and adds unique personality to a room. Displaying a collection – no matter the price point – elevates the importance of each item. Everything stands up a little prouder,” Pulte says.

Choose the room that matches the collection. Each room has a unique mood, and your collectibles must match the room’s designated “feel.” Formal items belong in rooms with a formal mood such as a dining room or library. Informal items can decorate spaces such as kitchens and family rooms.

“Celebrate your collections,” Pulte says. “What is holding you back from displaying your treasures? Use what you have; zero in on your specific interests and play up the personalization angle.” ❖

Bryan Pulte of Bryan Pulte Interiors has organized displays of clients’ collections from antique samplers to gas pumps to leather-bound books. Contact him at 303-399-8866 to personalize your treasures.



TODAY'S HOTTEST COLLECTIBLES

1950s ceramics
and ashtrays

Vintage paint-by-number
artwork

Antique weather vanes

1970s space toys
and baseball cards



EACH ROOM HAS A UNIQUE MOOD, AND YOUR COLLECTIBLES MUST

MATCH THE ROOM'S DESIGNATED "FEEL." FORMAL ITEMS BELONG IN ROOMS

WITH A FORMAL MOOD SUCH AS A DINING ROOM OR LIBRARY. INFORMAL ITEMS

CAN DECORATE SPACES SUCH AS KITCHENS AND FAMILY ROOMS.