

MAKE A STATEMENT

PERSONALIZE YOUR HOME BY
ADDING CUSTOM DETAILS.

BY MELISSA DAVIS

Interior design is all about adding your own custom touches; it's the little added details that will make your home noteworthy. The difference between a basic builder's home and the swoon-worthy design magazine dream is not as vast as you might think.

Home décor is similar to fashion. Think about the perfect little black dress; a stunning necklace is all it takes to go from okay to fabulous.

Want to make your home a standout? Here are my top five custom add-ons to take your space from basic to notable:

1. APPLIED MOULDING: Elevate a builder basic living room, or add a chair rail in a stairwell with a simple one-and-a-half inch moulding. You can paint it in the same wall tone or accent with a crisp trim white. Materials are a few hundred dollars and this is a task even the novice do-it-yourselfer can do.

2. UPGRADE YOUR INTERIOR DOORS: Nothing screams builder basic quite as loudly as the standard interior door offering found in every big box store. On my renovation projects I try to add custom doors; be it extended height, solid core wood to match the floors or, even better, doing something truly unique like the sexy Baltic doors by ScanWest.

3. WALL PANELS: One wall is all it takes to wow visitors. Add a feature wall in stone, wood or a custom panel. I love the new custom wall panels from Earth Coverings. They come in 32 by 32-inch panels that are plastered and painted, hiding the seams to create a dramatic expansive effect.

4. GALLERY WALLS: Photography is one of the most literal ways to personalize a space. A shot or two in each room is nice, but they can get lost in the mix. I prefer to do groupings that begin to tell the story behind who lives there. Guests will naturally stop to ask questions about where and when each shot was taken, learning a bit more about their host in the process.

5. CUSTOM LIGHTING: There are few more prominent features in a home than the light fixtures. They are literally lit up adornments, demanding that guests take note. Having a custom light fixture made for feature areas like your dining room is a terrific way to add your personal style – and it's a lot of fun! My clients love pulling images and sketching ideas with me. Then we enlist a custom shop to build the light. Lampcage in Toronto is my favourite. They create custom works that grace the pages of design magazines and humble entryways alike. **VM**



TOP: APPLIED MOULDING HELPS TAKE A WALL FROM BASIC TO NOTEWORTHY.

BOTTOM: PHOTO GALLERY WALLS ARE A GREAT WAY TO PERSONALIZE YOUR HOME.