

# Rooms Recreated

April 2008



## Bring New Life To Your Bookcase

Your books tell stories and so should your bookcase. It should give guests a glimpse of who you are...your interests, talents and hobbies. So with a little time and some artful arranging, your shelves can become the room's focus of interest, instead of an 'edge to edge' arrangement of books. Here are some tips to help you make your bookcase the topic of conversation.

- Begin by assessing the amount of books on your bookcase. If it is currently full, reduce the number by at least one-third to achieve an orderly and pleasing arrangement. Determine which books you want to keep considering hard covers only. Once your selections have been made, remove everything from the shelves.
- Next, look around the house for potential accessories such as collections, art objects, candles, small framed art, plants, vases, figurines, pottery, baskets, miniature boxes, small lamps, etc. Special family photographs, travel memorabilia, and hobby items can also be used to add a warm, personal touch to a bookcase vignette. The objects should have different finishes, textures and sizes.
- Before loading items on the shelves, create some interest. If you have a bookcase with adjustable shelves, vary the space between the shelves or even consider removing one or more shelves. If the bookcase is painted, painting the back wall a different color can produce a completely new look.
- Arrange your bookcase one shelf at a time using a selection of books and accessories. Be sure to vary the height and depth of the items on each shelf. Arrangements are more interesting if everything isn't at the same level. Stacks of books or boxes make perfect risers for displaying accessories and items placed in front or back of other items add dimension. Other ways to add drama include placing a small accessory in front of a row of books or leaning a picture, mirror or plate on the back wall of the shelf.
- As you are loading the shelves, be sure to allow for some empty pockets of space. It not only gives the eye a chance to rest, the visual 'pause' helps emphasize the accessorized spaces. Avoid the tendency to clutter up the space - having fewer truly beautiful objects has more impact than a dozen meaningless trinkets.

Decorating a bookcase can often be an intimidating and daunting process, but by using these simple tips you can bring new life to your bookcase in just an afternoon!