



HOW TO ADD INDIVIDUALITY AND PERSONALITY TO YOUR HOME

INTERIOR DESIGNER, PROPERTY GURU AND CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE COLUMNIST CHRISTINE YORATH IS HERE TO TELL YOU HOW TO PERSONALISE YOUR HOME



New houses and apartments rarely have a personality until the occupants put their stamp on it and even in rental homes, it is easy enough to do.

When I owned the Flats in Leeds letting agency I went in hundreds of city centre apartments where the basic specification was almost the same; usually with white painted walls, a golden coloured wood laminate floor, a grey or beech coloured kitchen,

beige bathroom tiles, beige bedroom carpets and straight rows of ceiling downlights. Most developers were so lacking in adventure that it was easy for me to create 18 individual apartments at 19 Wellington Street and sell for just about the highest price per square foot Leeds city centre had ever seen on new apartments. Thereby proving that there are people who don't want their home to be an image of their next door neighbours.

If you are in a rental property and thinking of making a physical change such as applying wallpaper, you must get permission from your landlord and usually if the job is well done and tasteful the landlord will agree to it remaining on your departure.

Don't be afraid to expose your personality in your home, it can be fun not playing it safe! The idea of a mural might be reminiscent of Coronation

Street's Hilda Ogden with her "muriel" but there are some stunning options available now and are fantastically affordable. The New York skyline through a window mural comes in four room height panels covering a wall over 4m wide for under £60.

The safe three piece suite long gave way to L shaped sofas or a combination of 2 two seaters or a 3+2 seater, but have you ever coveted the famous Salvador Dali Mae West lips sofa? Well Fabb Sofas (backed by Lord Kirkham, the DFS founder) is offering a 21st century version for less than £600.

Do you have downlights with GU10 lamps (bulbs)? Instead of warm or cool light lamps, why not spend just a few pounds and see an area of your home in a new light with a coloured or colour changing lamp? The entrance hall is often a good area to try this out. Every organised home needs lots

of storage and some people buy very predictable chests of drawers. Several years ago, there was a blue and beech range of furniture sold at a large outlet at Birstall and I saw it in about 50% of the flats I saw the interiors of in Leeds! So why not think a little out of the box with a statement set of drawers such as the metal trunk style drawers with leather strap details? A great talking point and practical too for well under £200.

Here's a little quote from the Bible: "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

May you fill your homes with all precious and pleasant riches!

For more advice go to www.christineyorath.com or get in touch by emailing christine@yorathgroup.com or ringing 07836 737300.

