

Resin, gold leaf and ostrich feather lamp, price on request, A Modern Grand Tour



Ceramic bowl, £240, SCP



Ceramic ornaments, £29.50 for pair, India Jane



Pheasant feathers, £7.99 for a pack of five, The Feather Factory



Hand-painted ink blot wall covering, price on request, Porter Teleo



Velvet armchair, £1,250, Graham & Green

Satin and cotton cushion, £72, Rockett St George



Linen throw, £122.50, Holly's House

Ceramic sculpture, £425, Pierre Williams Ceramic Art



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HOME UPDATES

AND JUST ADD JOY...

It's not the big statements – or even statement walls – that make a house a home, but the little things that really matter, says interior designer Jo Berryman

Marble and metal table lamp, £795, Jonathan Adler at Pad Lifestyle



Roses wallpaper in Pink On Oyster, £190 per metre, Bennison Fabrics



For me, a wall is a wall, even after you've spent hours choosing the perfect paint or plaster finish.

Beautiful, yes, but just a wall, joyless until ceramics, fabrics, papers, art and more are brought out to haphazardly perch, hang, drape and scatter. The bits that make your home what it is – who you are. I'm an unapologetic collector of this emotional bric-a-brac, the 'museum of me'.

You see, when you decorate a home as a real person, for real life, it's accessories that are key. Womb rooms – what I call the spaces filled with personal fripperies – become a place of nurture and cosiness.

To work with all this clutter, avoid the tendency to cluster symmetrically, and instead group things based on scale. Small things together, tall things together. And plain walls aren't the only solution, Porter Teleo's ink blots or Bennison's roses

truly sing – a backdrop of colour that shows intent to really live here.

Rows of shelving allow you to display cherished pieces and shuffle arrangements, which keeps the space alive. Static homes are dull ones. Opt for an overspill of vines or a bucket full of hydrangeas as a centrepiece on a weathered wooden table. Prop a trio of Pierre Williams' figurines on wall-mounted plinths to add drama without losing

floor space. Showstopper lighting is essential; my current obsession is an ostrich feather lamp – natural plumes diffuse a wash of flattering light, #nofilter required.

So remember this next time you're agonising over paint shades. Colour is just a shell for the bits that really matter. Like so many things, it's what's inside that counts. ■

Five easy tips to enliven a space

- Regular clear-outs. Throw out anything that doesn't bring you joy. This makes space for more cherished acquisitions.
- Rearrange books on shelves, art and furniture. Lose attachment to the positions of things.
- Accessorise. Cushions, throws and rugs are a cost- and time-effective way to lift a tired scheme.
- Scale play. I like bold patterns in tight spaces and tiny embellishments in grand spaces.
- Designate a dirt wall. In a family home there's no space for perfection. We do handstands on ours.

Wood and glass dome, £49.95, Nkuku at Amara



Matt acrylic emulsion in Turquoise Sombre, £20, Emery Et Cie

Wood dining table, £2,200, The French House

