



STOCK A STAIRCASE

An assortment of large posters and smaller prints brings color and personality to a staircase wall. Stagger the frames parallel to the steps, and use the railing as a guide for the lower edge of the arrangement.

Make the mix feel unique by including custom pieces, either kid-drawn or professionally commissioned—like this portrait of a first home.

This the-more-the-merrier approach also works in other clearly constrained areas, like the walls of a powder room.

In high-traffic areas like the stairway, pieces can easily get bumped askew. To keep art even and level, anchor the corners of each frame with removable adhesive strips.

We want to see how you display art and personal mementos. Post a photo of your arrangement on Instagram using #realsimplememories and it could appear in an upcoming issue.

As you gather a collection, consider this advice from a few professionals.

BUYING

Art should complement, not compete with, your room's focal point. Look at your rug, for example. If it has a busy pattern, stick with one large piece instead of a gallery wall.

Incorporating sentimental ephemera (like cherished kids' drawings or ticket stubs) instantly brings character to a collection. In your display, aim to have one out of every five pieces feel homemade or autobiographical.

If you like the look of paintings but are on a print budget, search for words like "giclée" or "artist enhanced" in the description. These techniques give a suggestion of brushstrokes.

FRAMING

Frames can get expensive (especially custom ones), but they're worth the investment because quality options elevate the look of the entire room and last longer than bargain versions.

Aside from your local framer, the pros also recommend Framebridge, Michaels, and Simply Framed for custom jobs.

If you plan to hang something across from a window, consider matte paper without glass or a canvas print to prevent glare. Alternatively, museum glass is relatively glare-free.

HANGING

Even the pros can have a hard time getting different frames to line up evenly. That's why they swear by this trick: Stick painter's tape across the back of the frame and mark the hook or poke a hole where the hook or nail should go. Then transfer the tape to the wall and attach the hardware in the right spot on your first try.

If there's an architectural element in your space (like a fireplace), display one large piece of artwork above it and hang a gallery-style arrangement on the opposite wall.

PROP STYLING BY KARIN OLSEN

TO BUY: (Top row, from left) Lawrence Slater Peace Art Print, \$49; urbanoutfitters.com. *Wow, That Is Bright!* by Lisa Travis, \$147; minted.com. (Second row) *A Splash of Magique* by Milou Neelen, \$252; artfullywalls.com. *Keep Going 1* by Jessica Poundstone, \$178; artfullywalls.com. *Red Sun* by Jennifer Morehead, \$31; minted.com. *Einstein* by Kate Gatley, \$124; artfullywalls.com. (Third row) Fine Art Print, Abstract, from \$48; joreyhurley.etsy.com. *The Wild Ones* by Ophelia Pang, \$124; artfullywalls.com. *Fox Trot* by Holly Royval, \$44; minted.com. *Roses Are Red* by Mark & Suumin-Fox & Velvet, \$130; artfullywalls.com. (Bottom row) *Ok, Now Ladies V1*, \$45; chasingpaper.com. Custom Home Portrait, from \$90; alenabergerart.etsy.com. White Belmont Frame with Mat by Studio Décor, \$12; michaels.com.