Winter HOME

NOVEMBER 2015

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IN THE FLORIDA KEYS IS UNIQUE
FROM THE INSIDE TO THE OUT

ON THE INSIDE, ONE TREND IS WALLPAPER," done differently here than in other areas of the country. Douglas Helkenn, senior interior designer at award-winning D’asign Source in Marathon, says the difference is in the paper itself. “We’ve always done wallpaper, typically grasscloth or other natural products, but not big pattern wallpaper.”

Like homes up north, another trend is open concept rooms where the family room, living room, dining room, and sometimes the kitchen, are combined. However, in the Keys what’s in those rooms is different. “Furniture here is not big and overstuffed. It’s always been smaller in the Keys,” Helkenn says.

That furniture and the accessories will be colored in shades of blue and white, according to Helkenn and also to the website Zillow. “Pops of indigo blue or deep navy will become a staple in home design this year,” says Zillow home design expert Kerrie Kelly.

Looking ahead to 2016, Helkenn doesn’t see last year’s vibrant colors returning. “Off white will be the dominant color in the new year.”

Looking to the outside, window treatments are important in the Florida Keys. Balancing the beautiful views and the glare of intense sunshine can be tricky. According to the Hunter Douglas website, shades can solve that problem. “Silhouette shades magically float between two sheers and diffuse harsh sunlight. Simply tilt the vanes to achieve your desired level of light and privacy,” the website says.

Those shades can be power controlled and can be raised or lowered with a device that senses when the sun rises and sets or programmed from a smart phone from wherever you are. “Just program PowerView to move your..."

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Hanging Christmas lights is a tradition in which most American neighborhoods participate. Red, green, blue and white lights are common colors that illuminate homes.

This tradition makes the darker days around the winter solstice seem a little more cheerful, but getting the lights just right isn’t always easy. Lights that aren’t hung properly will droop, sag and can eventually fall down.

**HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON GETTING THEM STRAIGHT:**

**LOTS OF CLIPS**
Start by using a light clip for every individual bulb in your light strand. This may seem excessive, but it is the key to straight lights.

Attach the clips as you are hanging the lights so you know where to position them. If you own your home, you might think about using permanent clips to make the process easier next year.

Hang the clips using a gutter or other plumb line as a gauge. Clip the lights in position as you work. If you have a friend available, have them feed you the strand of lights as you work to make the process easier.

For rope lighting, use the tracks that are available. These are plastic tracks that the rope squeezes into. Attach the track in position first, using silicone glue, nails or screws (preditrill first) and then press the rope into the track. It is impossible not to have a straight rope light if you use the tracks. The tracks are clear and subtle so you can leave them in place all year.

**TREE TIPS**
Decorate your trees by wrapping minilights around the trunk and the branches. Start at the bottom and wrap the light strand around the trunk in even increments. Branch out as necessary, wrapping around each main branch and doubling the lighting on your way back.

Use cable ties to hold the lighting in place if needed. Use about 100 minilights per foot of tree.

**BE CAREFUL**
Use caution when hanging your lights. A sturdy, quality ladder with adjustable feet and good traction is ideal. Have someone assist you when you are on the ladder to prevent an accident.

Don’t hang lights when you are alone in case you slip and fall. If conditions are poor, avoid hanging the lights. You can also decorate from the inside, using bright bulbs in the window. You won’t get quite the same effect, but it is safer than climbing on an icy roof in poor weather.
Every room needs a little pizzazz. Perhaps it is an artsy lamp, a uniquely painted chest, a mother-of-pearl picture frame or an electric lime green throw pillow. Keys coastal design is the hottest national trend, especially when it comes to accents.

“You always want to put a piece of glitz in the room if you can. Chrome accent tables are very popular, as are painted accent pieces in those bright Caribbean colors, especially down here in the Keys,” Royal Furniture co-owner and interior designer Chris Elwell explained.
Painted tables serve as statement pieces. A chest-of-drawers with a nautical scene, or an aqua cabinet with shell-shaped hardware blends with more traditional light wood bed frames and end tables.

Wood furniture leans to lighter tones with less rattan and wicker for a warmer appearance. At Fast Buck’s at Home in Key West, imported organic materials pair with tropical upholstery. Interior designer David L. Smith takes rootballs of teak trees, deemed unsuitable for lumber, and crafts them into works of art that become conversation pieces.

“We modernize it by cutting some strong lines into it, but we leave it in its organic state. Sometimes we put glass on it. They weather beautifully. There’s not a lot of maintenance to them. And they’re timeless. They’re always going to look great down here,” Smith said.

Tabletop and floor lamps should be considered a crucial part of any budget. Metals, including aluminum, stainless steel and chrome, contribute a touch of class. Or, a homeowner might select lighting atop an aquatic-themed base mimicking the Keys environment.
LAMPS CAN BE AN EXPRESSION OF PERSONALITY AND KEYS STYLE.
Imitation greenery interjects a homey feel while requiring only occasional dusting, making it perfect for second homes and rental properties. “I think we sell more than many places because of a lot of our clients are absentee owners, so they’re not here to put fresh plants in their house. The quality of the plants is so much better now and the prices have come way down,” added Elwell.

Rugs finish a room, conveying comfort while completing a particular look. Cotton blends, seagrass and sisal, natural and manmade, remain popular floor coverings in the Florida Keys. “Down here most of our floors are hard surfaces and it’s a great way to change the texture of the room and give you another design element,” said Elwell, who said clients are even requesting shag rugs as a contemporary element.

“Lighting is very important in a room. Lamps make such a big difference because they’re so unique. I think lamps should say something. You can buy beautiful lamps that can really add a lot of thought and presence to a room,” said Elwell.

ABOVE: UPSCALE HOMEOWNERS VALUE THE UNIQUENESS OF FASHIONING ORGANIC MATERIALS INTO THEIR LIVING SPACE.

RIGHT: A PAINTED PIECE CREATES AN INTERESTING FOCAL POINT AROUND WHICH TO FURNISH A COASTAL DESIGNED ROOM
Frangipani and plumeria are both weird words to use as a common description of an exotic plant, but in the 17th century when it was named, frangipani was as common a name as Chanel No. 5 is now. It was a perfume made from the spiral-shaped flower that the Italian 16th century Marquess Frangipani used to scent gloves thereby hiding the leather tanning smell and fooling the customer into thinking that the gloves were as appealing as the scent.

The frangipani goes by many names in the world: temple tree, champa, leelawadee, flor de mayo, himatanthus, egg flower, araliya, lantom, kembang kamboja and cacalloxochitl are a few of them you need to pronounce to understand that this member of the Apocynaceae family grows in the wild all over the world.

Ancient Aztec and Mayan writings record the medicinal uses for the tree as an ointment. Its wood can be used for musical instruments, tableware, and furniture. In the Pacific Islands it is flippantly worn behind the right ear if the person is single and left ear when taken, but everyone gets to wear its flowers in leis.

In Asia, folktales say that they provide shelter for demons, vampires, and ghosts. Considering the way that the leafless branches look in the winter, that is not surprising. Most frangipani take on a decidedly architectural look in the winter when all of their leaves and flowers disappear and bare branches, reminiscent of winter in the north, strike a pose against the sky. Planting them among other bushes or interesting bromeliads softens the stark shapes of the limbs. It is best to propagate at this time.

The stems of this succulent-like plant have a white sticky sap that exudes from the wound. It is poisonous, so don’t touch it. Cast the cutting into the shade and let the sap dry up. After a week or so, plant the frangipani, stake and wait. A three-part branch will emerge from the tip in the spring. They grow both in full sun and part shade.
Do not overwater. Repeat that. Do not water in the winter at all. All kinds of diseases attack this non-native plant and if you overwater you are likely to attract one of them. Rust fungus, black tip fungus, mealy bugs, scale, spider mites, whiteflies, stem rot, snails, slugs, grasshoppers and sun scald are a few. These usually do not attack trees that are not overwatered.

Frangipani can grow to 26 feet with multiple trunks as large as 13 feet in circumference. They grow very quickly and can easily shoot up to 12 feet in as little as six years. This is a wonderful pot plant because it can be easily pruned into whatever shape the gardener chooses. It can be grown as a bonsai. It can form a hedge or screen instead of being a taller tree. Look for a plant that has a short trunk before it branches out.

Key West Master Gardener Robin Robinson was a columnist for the Chicago Daily News and syndicated with Princeton Features. Her books “Plants of Paradise” and award-winning “Roots, Rocks and Rain: Native Trees of the Florida Keys,” can be found at the Garden Club and on Amazon.com. This column is part of a series developed by the Key West Garden Club. For information, visit www.keywestgardenclub.com.
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The best Christmas decorations work together to form a spectacular theme that builds excitement and anticipation for the holiday. From the tree topper to the tablecloth, your home’s holiday theme should have a consistent color, story and design to help stylishly celebrate the season.

Switch things up this year by doing something different. You are sure to create special moments and lasting memories along the way.

Choose A Theme

COZY COUNTRY: Flashing lights and singing chipmunk ornaments should be nowhere near your country-themed Christmas. ‘Tis the season to pare down and get back to the basics. That means swapping out your string of chaser lights for a strand of popcorn. Or replacing your standard glass ornaments with natural elements such as pine cones, cranberry twigs and dried fruit. For some extra county charm, wrap your presents in brown paper and tie them with string or ribbon. And a country theme isn’t complete until you immerse yourself in the experience of an old-fashioned Christmas by sitting around the tree as a family, spending time together without televisions, smartphones or tablets.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS: A Victorian theme ditches the holiday’s traditional red and green colors for a more soft-hued assortment of purples, blues and greens, accented by silver or gold. It is a throwback to the Victorian era and its lavish, overstated design styles. Layer your Christmas tree in white lights and crystal ornaments to achieve the Victorian look. Use thick, shiny paper to wrap your gifts for under the tree to create a stunning combination. Display fresh or silk flower arrangements around your home and load your mantle with oversized stockings. You and your family will be swept away to the more romantic, charming era throughout the holiday season.

PERSONAL THEME: If you choose to put your own spin on your holiday decorating theme this year, what better way than to incorporate some personal touches? You can sprinkle your tree with small framed cutout photos of family members, or cover your mantle with heirloom items that hold special meaning. Choose colors that you like and see what works together. Your personal holiday theme is, after all, yours, so be creative and fearless when it comes to pairing traditional decorations and homemade ones.
window treatments to the exact position you want,” the website advises, “and then control and schedule them using the intuitive PowerView App on your smartphone or tablet.”

Taffy Robinson, owner designer of Taffy Interiors, has been designing homes in the Florida Keys for more than thirty years. “Each individual home in the Keys has its own design,” Robinson says. “What I do most is window treatments, the jewelry of a home. Window treatments can bring life to a home.”

Roman shades, drapery cornices, and plantation shutters are popular; however, Robinson prefers colorful fabrics. “Fabrics are more fun, and they can make focal point.” Behind those shades, the windows in the Keys, as well as in other parts of the state, are mandated to be hurricane resistant. When struck by flying debris during a storm, impact windows are designed to stay in one piece. Also, hurricane resistant impact windows provide 99% blockage of ultraviolet (UV) light. The 2015 Building Code in Florida, which went into effect on June 30, has several new requirements for impact windows. Two of these requirements are:  
- A lower U Factor. The U factor is a measurement of how much indirect heat transfers through the window. The lower the U Factor the better the window will perform at keeping the heat out.  
- Low-e hurricane windows with either vinyl or aluminum frames. Low-e windows contain Argon gas in the middle of two panes to block the transfer of heat.

Joe Pardo, owner of Keys Tropical Windows in Tavernier for the past 14 years, has installed more than $2.5 million worth of impact windows in the Florida Keys. He says that the new code will result in higher prices for homeowners. “The low-e windows that are required now cost owners 25 to 30 percent more than standard tinted windows.”

According to Pardo, there has been confusion in the impact window industry about these code changes. Rumors fly that cities are not enforcing the new code because of the increased building costs. Retrofitting older homes is also a question of cost vs. benefit. “Rehab of old homes is a problem with the new code. It’s so hard to bring an older home’s efficiency up to code that sometimes it’s like throwing away money.”

According to Pardo, Key West is different from other parts of the Keys when it comes to accepting the new code. Homeowners there want windows that conform to the new code for efficiency, though not in the older buildings as it would change the color of the glass.

Pardo guesses that most of the new installation of impact windows throughout the Keys has a common thread – saving money on home insurance. “With discounts of more than 20 percent a year for homes with impact windows, people figure that whatever they spend on windows they will make back in a couple of years in reduced insurance fees.”

Brad Hager is project manager for Royal Crest Builders Remodel Services in Marathon, serving the Middle Keys, Marathon, Key Colony Beach, Islamorada, and Big Pine Key. As far as the new building code is concerned, he says one thing that has stayed the same is the requirement for the windows in Florida to withstand impact wind loads of up to 180 miles per hour.

“Certain design pressure numbers are given to certain size windows, depending on where the windows are located in the house, on the first floor or the second. The windows have to meet or exceed these numbers in order to pass inspection.”

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Major home improvements, and minor improvements related to a building’s structure or utilities, require a permit from your local building department.

Each municipality in the Florida Keys has a building official, and its own set of building permit regulations and ordinances, although all follow the Florida Building Code. Local ordinances can be easily accessed on the website of each respective city.

**IN MARATHON, ISLAMORADA,** and in unincorporated Monroe County, minor residential renovations valued at less than $2,500 – such as painting the living room or installing carpet—do not require a building permit. This kind of permit exemption applies only when there is no change in the original size or configuration of the structure.

**IN KEY WEST** non-structural work costing less than $1,000 does not require a building permit, however residents in the Historic District need to obtain Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC) approval for all exterior repairs.

Regardless of where you are in Florida, if a job involves alterations to plumbing, electric, mechanical, roofing or any structural aspect of the home, it is very likely that a permit must be “pulled” (applied for and approved) no matter what the cost.

Building a fence anywhere in the Keys requires a permit, regardless of its cost. Fence height is limited in many areas and, of course, fences must be constructed within property lines. The building department will require a recent survey of the property.

Building permits are issued to licensed contractors, or to property owners directly, if they attest that they will be doing the work themselves, and for their personal use. Throughout the Florida Keys, the use of unlicensed contractors is prohibited.

If a property owner intends to hire laborers to help with permitted work, it must be with an understanding that the laborers are under direct supervision of the property owner. An owner-builder affidavit requires the owner-builder to attest that any helpers will be considered employees. The owner-builder is responsible for providing workers compensation and
liability insurance, and paychecks must reflect payroll tax deductions and employer contributions as required by Federal law. A licensed contractor will pull permits for every job they are contracted for.

Only an unlicensed contractor would ask a property owner to pull a permit for work the contractor is expected to do. Unlicensed contractors usually lack both a State Certificate of Competency, and insurance. By hiring an unlicensed contractor, a property owner assumes the risk for all damage caused by, or to, that contractor. The property owner has no legal recourse if an unlicensed contractor takes payment but does not complete a job. The fact that a contractor is unlicensed could render any job they complete non-compliant with the building code.

THE CITY OF MARATHON AND THE CITY OF ISLAMORADA offer office hours each Wednesday for expedited building permit applications. Routine permits, such as air conditioner replacement, hurricane shutters, and re-roofs may be issued on the same day, if all necessary documents are provided. Otherwise, expect it to take a few days to several weeks to get a building permit approved.

An application for approval of a major renovation, such as adding an accessory apartment, will require the review and approval of additional local, state and/or Federal agencies before a building permit can be issued. Look for a professional architect or city planner to provide guidance through the permitting process for any large project.

Ron Wampler, Chief Building Official for the City of Key West, says “Building permits are important to make sure the job is done right.” He adds that “The staff is here to help. They are experienced, and may even have ideas that can make your job better.” Safety is the first priority of the building department, and it should be the first priority for homeowners and building contractors too.

After you pull a permit, realize that a final inspection is usually required. Call the Building Department to arrange an inspection of the work to ensure it meets state and local building code, and allow the permit to be closed.

In order to transfer (sell) your property legally, there should be no open (incomplete) permits. Insurance companies may decline coverage for a home with open permits, or evidence of unpermitted work. If unpermitted work is discovered, the property owner must obtain an after-the-fact permit and/or return the property to its original condition. This can be an expensive process.

A handful of licensed contractors offer permit closing services, but they cannot guarantee a resolution to the problem. If unpermitted work cannot be brought into conformance with the Building Code, the property owner will be required to remove the improvements, and that will require -- you guessed it -- a new building permit.

Wampler says “There are a lot of fine craftsmen in the Keys. They do excellent work, and it really is in your best interests to use a licensed contractor.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Monroe County Building Dept: www.monroecounty-fl.gov
Key West Building Dept: www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Marathon Building Dept: www.ci.marathon.fl.us
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In most cases, repairing a leaky faucet is simple work. It generally requires removing a worn washer. Even homeowners with little experience in plumbing can take care of this issue themselves.

This article focuses on the standard compression faucet, the most common style. Others include ceramic disk, cartridge and ball type. Fixing a compression faucet usually involves replacing a washer.

Fixing others can require the replacement of O-rings or neoprene seals. Always keep your owner’s manual for fixtures, as some may have more elaborate repair specifications than others.

For repairing a compression faucet, there are some simple steps to take before you get started.

**FIRST STEPS**

- Always remember to shut off the water under the sink. You will be removing parts that essentially block the water from gushing out of your faucet, so it’s important to follow this first step.

- Cover your sink drain with a cloth or paper towel in case you drop a small part or screw.

- Prepare your wrench for action by duct-taping its jaws. This will prevent any scratching of your fixture.

**FIXING THE ISSUE**

Now that you’re ready for repair, it’s time to disassemble the faucet.

Depending on what yours looks like, you should start by prying off the decorative cap on the handle.

**After that:**

- Remove the handle screw;
- Use a wrench to unscrew the packing nut;
- Unscrew the stem;
- Remove the worn seat washer (which may be held in place by a brass screw); and
- Coat the new washer with plumber’s grease and reinstall the fixture.

As good as your newly installed parts look, the true test will come in turning on the water. After you’ve reinstalled all screws and parts, turn back on your water and check for leaks.
The Florida Keys are on the forefront of interior design trends. Coastal makes a comeback in 2016, representing comfort, relaxation and unfussiness with durable fabrics in Caribbean shades of blue, green and coral. Local interior designers, fresh from fall markets, are eager to blend coastal style with the simplicity of contemporary design.

“This presentation I went to felt like it was tailored to Key West. One of the fabrics
had big flamingoes on it. There were these big, exploded watercolor fabrics with bright greens, hot pinks and oranges. It was dead-on for us down here. We’re really excited about what we’re going to show for 2016,” said David L. Smith, who works with Fast Buck’s at Home to furnish local residences.

“The number one trend is that we’re moving in a much more contemporary direction than we ever have before,” said Royal Furniture co-owner and designer Chris Elwell. “Contemporary would mean a lot less rattan, wicker and seagrass like has been used in the past in the Keys and much more upholstered goods and wood accent pieces.”

An updated Keys living room might feature a gray couch accented with deep pink, cheetah-print pillows beside a hammered aluminum floor lamp, a chair upholstered in a large hibiscus print, an electric pink, lime green and black-striped ottoman and a glass coffee table with a natural wood base.

“We feel like there’s a timelessness to it even though it might be a trend for the rest of the country right now to see hot pinks and greens. You think of Lily Pulitzer, which is always on target for Key West. Strong colors always work down here. We’re a little bit looser. We’re less seasonal,” Smith added.

“People are moving away from neutral tones and going into lots of color again,” Elwell said. “Corals are back like you wouldn’t believe, which is funny because that’s kind of what it was like in the 1990s. Lime green is back and, of course, a lot of blue and gray tones.”

Designers see a resurgence of the traditional coastal pairing of blue and white, but with more patterns and textures available. Gray has become the neutral color of choice over more common whites and beiges.

“It’s a very soothing color. We feel like it’s a great backdrop for all of our strong accent colors. It really allows that color to come forward,” Smith said.

One of the biggest sellers in the Florida Keys remains the sleeper sofa that adds functionality to smaller homes. A pull-out couch creates an inexpensive way to host guests. Plus, recent advances in the industry offer greater comfort with mattresses measuring up to eight-and-a-half inches deep.

“When we go to market, we look for items that are smaller than anywhere else in the country because our rooms are such different sizes here,” Elwell said. “Even if I absolutely love a sofa, if it doesn’t come as a sleeper, I don’t buy it. Out of every ten sofas sold, continued on page 26
Dealers are also experiencing a push for furnishings by Sunbrella, a company that 50 years ago specialized in awnings and boat sails. It adapted its high-performance materials to outdoor furniture in the 1980s. And now, Sunbrella fabrics match the look and feel of indoor materials with vivid colors and patterns to broaden use throughout the house.

“The nice thing about Sunbrella is that it’s stain resistant and easy to take care of. The furniture industry is making a huge commitment to it,” said Elwell.

Customers are also spending more on outdoor furniture as an extension of the house, an important element in Keys living.

“The idea of outdoor living around the country has changed dramatically in the last three years. The patio furniture industry has been growing by leaps and bounds. When we do entire houses, we do a lot of outdoor patio work and the customer is very open to spending about half of what they do on the inside room on the outside room, which is quite a change,” Elwell explained.

He expressed that the newer patio furniture is not “your grandparents’ wicker.” Plastic, fashioned to resemble, wicker retains the original design while holding up better to sun and salt. Cushions and pillows of all sizes, colors and patterns contribute to the comfort outdoor lovers seek.

More durable fabrics allow for easy care, a factor especially important in rental properties. Elwell estimated 60 percent of the upholstered items sold at Royal Furniture’s three Florida Keys stores feature microfiber, a 100-percent polyester fabric now available in a variety of solids and prints. “It’s so easy to take care of, and it’s a good investment because you’ll get so much more life out of your furniture,” he said.

PREVIOUS PAGE - CLOCKWISE:
GREENS AND AQUAS LEAD THE WAY IN ACCENT COLORS FOR KEYS HOMES.

MULTI-COLORED WALL ART ACCENTS A KEY WEST DINING ROOM WITH A SHINY WHITE TABLE ACCOMPANIED BY VIBRANT YELLOW CHAIRS IN VARYING PATTERNS. (COURTESY DAVID L. SMITH INTERIORS)

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THE MENTION

of home decorating and art send many individuals running in fear. So much so, some people are prepared to hire a professional to decorate their own abode. Art is personal and subjective, much like your home. Your home decor should personally reflect you and your family. One misconception of purchasing art is that there is a heavy price tag involved. Yes, there can be a hefty price to some pieces, however there are currently many options to decorating with quality art that fit a variety of budgets. Here are a few tips to selecting and working around the art you choose for your home while working within your budget.

Jennifer Badry, owner and one of the artists of ’7 Artists & Friends’ Art Gallery of Key West, gives some passionate advice when selecting a piece of art for your home, “Once you see something that speaks to you, go with that intuition. When purchasing art, you’re not just buying the art, you are buying a memory or a symbol of something. So, always go with your heart.” Art for the home or office is something an individual will see everyday and that memory or symbol will be subconsciously observed repeatedly. Wasting time and space on art that does not speak to a person is counterproductive to creating a space that reflects an individual’s personality.
Jennifer also suggests breaking out of the rut most people fall into with decor. An individual may find a whimsical piece that is contrary to their traditionally decorated home and shy away from it. “Treat yourself to what you love. Break out of your box and comfort zone. If it doesn’t fit your home’s overall decor, place it in a guest bedroom or spare bathroom,” she suggests. One client and friend of Jennifer’s owns a local KeyWest hotel. Her strategy is to fall in love with one large piece and purchase it as her focal point for a bedroom. From there, her client works the room’s decor around the painting by pulling two or three accent colors from the piece. “Paint a room around your purchased art. A bucket of wall paint is between $12-25 and that one bucket can transform a room,” Jennifer suggests. Another great tip to showcase your new piece of art is to paint only one wall and display the artwork on it. This creates an accent wall and gently pulls attention to that area in the room. This technique not only makes the artwork ‘pop’ but subtly showcases the art. When guests walk in to the room, their eyes are immediately drawn to the accent wall and hand selected piece of art.

Art doesn’t necessarily mean an individual needs a thick wallet. With today’s technology there are many options that help keep quality art affordable to all. Of course, some individuals will desire and possess the means for original artwork produced directly by the artist. However, there are many consumers that are looking for more affordable art. One economical option for consumers is to select a giclee print of a piece desired. Giclee is the highest quality method of printing and reproduction of an original piece of art available today thanks to technology. A giclee print offers exact colors, tonality and details of artwork that is almost identical to the original by using over one hundred colors in the production process. Giclee can be used on paper, canvas, metal and a variety of mediums. Most giclee prints resist fading up to 75 years and does not require protection from the sun’s ultraviolet rays. A giclee is lighter on the wallet, yet still provides a high quality reproduction of an original piece of art. The major difference with giclee is the absence of brush stroke and paint texture.

Another option for bringing art home on a budget is to buy a standard print of an original piece of art. A standard print uses only four colors in the printing process. The beauty of standard prints are that they are extremely affordable and flexible with how it is displayed. These types of prints offer consumers many options and flexibility with matting and framing. Consumers command what colors they desire to pull from the print through single or double matting the print. Framing the print also gives consumers immense control over the look of the piece. Frames come in a variety of options that allow individuals to add their own flare to the piece through the color, width, texture and style of a given frame.

When it comes to art and decorating, Jennifer quotes William Shakespeare, “...to thine own self be true”. When purchasing art rather than running away in fear, remember Shakespeare and be true to you. Select art that you are drawn to, love, feel and select art that fits your personal wallet.
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