

Wendy Baker's...

compact

Sketchbook

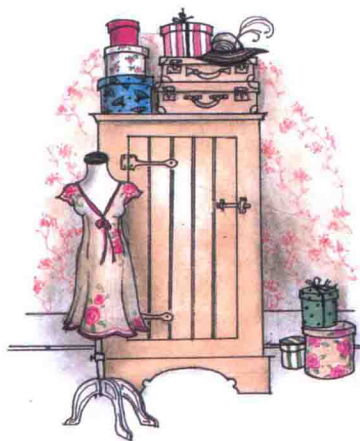
of accessories



an essential guide to home
accessories and soft furnishings

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Sketchbook
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Conceived, edited and designed by Wendy Baker

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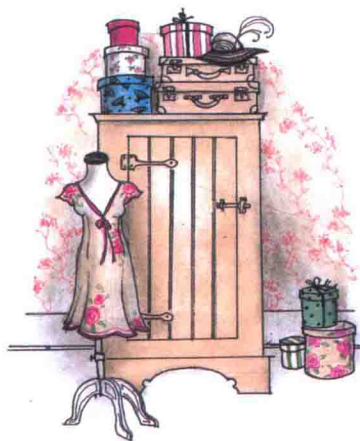
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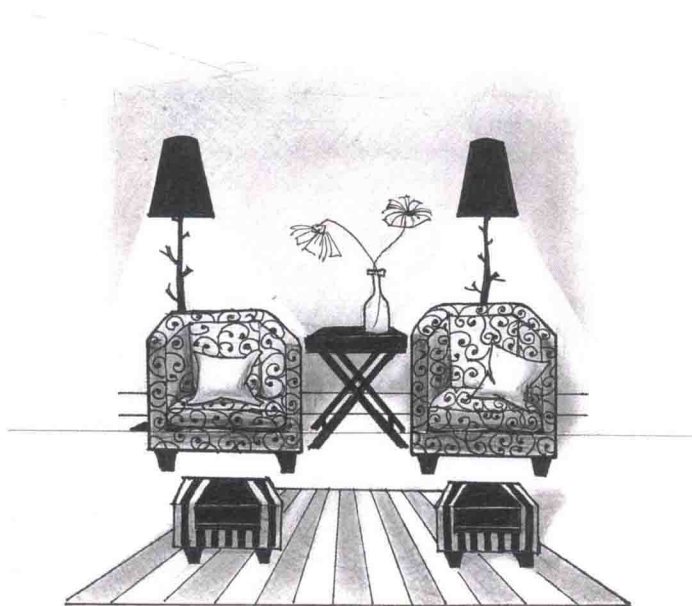
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WENDY BAKER

introduction...

The compact sketchbook of accessories is filled with ideas showing you how to accessorize your home, whether it is a relaxed country style or a more slick city style that you are trying to achieve. 'Over accessorizing' can sometimes work well but other times it can just look a mess. I personally love 'clutter' but then all of a sudden I feel like throwing everything away and generally clearing the decks. Very minimal accessories can look fantastic - if the one green apple on the plate is correctly placed...but rather like Nouvelle Cuisine it can sometimes look utterly ridiculous!

I cannot accessorize your home for you but I have tried to draw from my experience as a designer over the years and imagine your home....a good starting point is to make sure that your chosen colours are right - experiment with mini pots of paint, dab various colours of paint on your walls and live with them for a while before you commit to an expensive repaint. Check that your furniture is in the best position to allow you to walk around the room easily, see that you can look at the view if there is one and most important of all that you are comfortable when you are in the room. Then it comes to the best part I think...the accessories!

This is not as easy as it seems.... for instance a beautiful vase, with the simplest of flowers and the right light can be all you need to give a finishing touch to a certain corner - it makes the right statement and you don't have to go any further..and then another time that vase looks wrong and perhaps needs other accessories to show it off - it's just a matter of having the right balance. By contrast I found when I lived in the country that I liked to have more clutter around me - like a comforter - I wanted to be cocooned more - don't ask me why..

I hope you enjoy some of my ideas..and that you find them not only helpful but that it will teach you to change the way you place your ornaments, cushions or collectables - when you manage to create that certain coziness to a family room or the right kind of elegance to a formal living room just by adding the right accessory in the right place then you are well on your way.

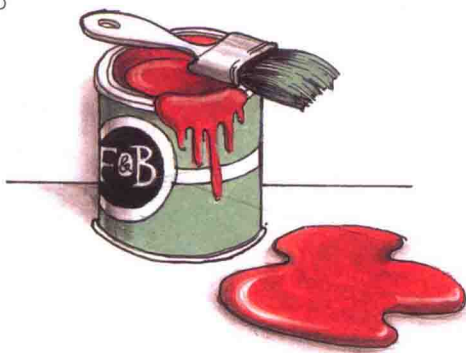
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choosing your style...

There really are no hard and fast rules nowadays when choosing a style for your home. Gone are the days when, if you lived in a period house, you had matching period furniture and consequently matching period accessories! Now we tend to have a mixture of styles all together in one room. It's great fun just buying bits and pieces here and there, things that take your fancy, but it's often when you get them back home that you realise that perhaps you have gone slightly over the top - then you have to decide to live with it, move it to another room or take it back!

When you start to accessorize a room try to make a sort of cameo picture - group things together - nothing looks more boring than say a small picture in the middle of a wall and at the wrong height - get all the pictures together for that room and put them into a nice pattern (I do this on the floor to make sure it looks right before banging holes in the walls!) - I have given you lots of examples of how to do this in the book. Of course it's the way I like to do things - it may not be your way but it will perhaps help to create your own look - something that you feel comfortable living with..



getting the colours right...

I'm a great believer in choosing neutral colours for your basic walls, at least to start with anyway. I live in France and my house faces South and is therefore bright, I have used 4 different shades of 'white' and it works really well. You can always be more adventurous once you have started to add your accessories then you may want to add a colour on one wall to add some warmth to a dark corner or to emphasize a particular item.



fabric and trimming selection...

Mix prints, checks, stripes or two tone plain fabrics together – try experimenting with different tones of fabrics as well as different textures – take into account the wall coverings and the curtains and keep the accessories simple and to the point - once you have decided on your scheme stick to it, don't keep adding more and more different colours as all that will do is to end up looking a mess.

If you decide on two tone on tone fabrics for your cushions add some trimmings in a mixture of the two colours – most fabric manufacturers also have trimming ranges to tie in with their fabrics and it adds a finishing touch to the accessory...

fabric and trimming selection...

- black and white



fabric and trimming selection...

- denim blues



fabric and trimming selection...

- chocolate browns



fabric and trimming selection...

- deep tones of red



fabric and trimming selection...

- patchwork

