



## DESIGN JOURNAL

# FIRST Impressions

It's often said, you never get a second chance to make a first impression. This thinking pertains not only to individuals, but also their dwellings, so it's important to approach designing your home's entryway with this in mind.

The entryway is, after all, where people get their first taste of what makes you, well, you. It should be infused with personality and warmth, plus a little bit of that "wow" factor, too. While you are no doubt a complex individual, to design a dream entryway that perfectly embodies your singular style, choose an inspirational theme around which to create the space.

Once you've called on that inspiration, determine how you will style the space, applying some essential considerations to ensure that your entry's first impression is one that all will remember.

1. *Find a focal point.* It could be a large painting, a mirror or something else, but determine a central anchor in order to ground the space.
2. *Accessorize.* Complement the chosen focal point by accessorizing. Add some personal touches, like family photos, monograms, or a family crest.
3. *Give it life.* Remind guests that your home is a place of life. Plants are a great way to suffuse the space with that living, ever-evolving feel.
4. *Put people at home.* Warm colors, lit candles and/or accent lighting make for an inviting and welcoming refuge.

With all this in mind myself, and enlisting a large asymmetrical mirror as my focal point, plus decorative items, like the driftwood horsehead on the table, and the jug on the floor, I then added a painted wedding portrait, some accent lighting and live plants. Together, these elements gave me just what I hoped for in my entryway—a great first impression that will last. Follow this simple advice and yours will too!

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**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**  
Mixing textures, such as crackle on wood and copper leaf on metal finishes, creates interest in an entry; personal portraits bring warmth; and driftwood sculptures add natural elements to the space.