

## At Home with Amanda

# Making an entrance: 6 Ways to spruce up your entry

By Amanda Eck

**H**ello Lamorinda readers! I am so excited for this opportunity to meet with you on a monthly basis and share my thoughts and insights on all things for the home.

If we were meeting together face-to-face I would welcome you with a warm hug and offer you a cup of tea (or coffee if you prefer) and we would sit and get to know one another better. I love to entertain and as a designer I love helping clients create a space of beauty and warmth for the family and their guests.

And the first place I like to start with is the entry or foyer. It is your guest's first glimpse of your home. It is the space that greets you as you walk in the door after a long day. It is the space your kids come barreling through after a busy day of school. It is the space your dearest friends, closest relatives and even your UPS delivery person sees. I don't know about you, but the rest of my home can be a complete disaster but if my entry is clean and welcoming I feel at ease with whoever comes to my door.

I am going to share my six favorite tips for making your entrance feel welcoming. Or in the words of Oprah, "make your home rise up to meet you."

### Tip No. 1: Declutter

If you have small children like I do, the entry becomes the catchall for backpacks, basketballs, discarded shoes and yesterday's mail. Clearing out the clutter sets the

stage for a welcoming space.

### Tip No. 2: Add a rug

Rugs in the entry are not just for keeping dirt at bay from pets and kiddos, it also help define space. A rug can introduce a splash of color or pattern to your entrance. I love using indoor/outdoor rugs for entries. My go-to rugs for high traffic areas are from Dash & Albert. They make great flat weave rugs that are both reversible and washable. Another tip is to make sure your rug is not so thick that it gets caught on the door every time you open it.

In this entry for one of our clients we took their dark, drab space and lightened it up with a Dash & Albert rug, a lighter wood furniture piece and a new mirror to help reflect the natural light. We displayed a few decorative coastal pieces to reflect the client's love for the ocean.

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