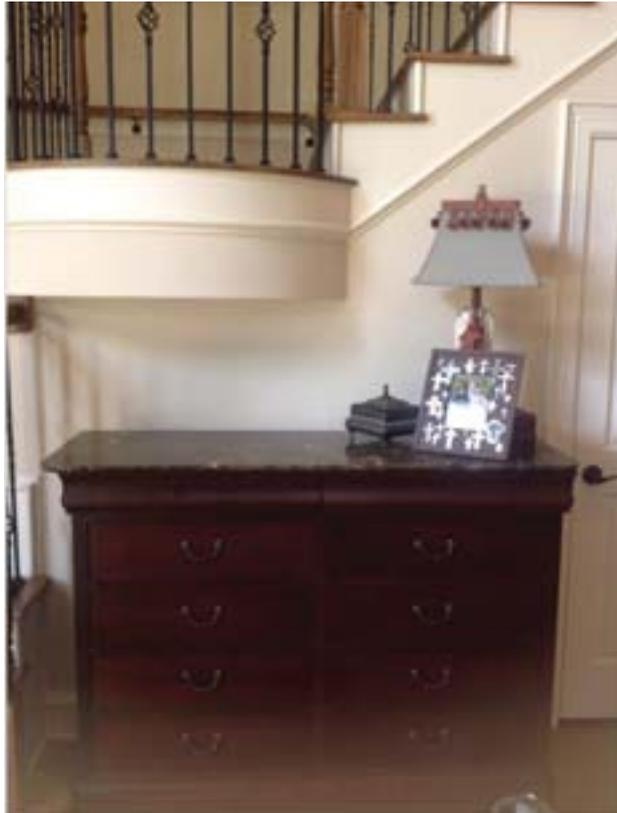


## At Home with Amanda

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

... continued from page D12



### Tip No. 3: Small Table or Console

Adding a small table, chest or console can help create a “drop zone” for things like keys and mail. It also creates a space for decorative items to be displayed giving your guest a small taste of what’s to come in the rest of your home. If space is tight I forgo the table and use a small bench, you can add a pillow or two for a pop of color.

In this client’s home their entry immediately opened up to the living and dining room, so we opted to place a rug at the entrance and created a “drop zone” down the hall by the staircase. We used upholstered storage ottomans for their dog’s leash and other small items that can be grabbed on the way out the door.

### Tip No. 4: Lighting

I love using lamps in the entry for both practical and aesthetic reasons. There is something so inviting about coming home in the evening and being greeted by the warm glow of a lamp. It’s also a great way to illuminate what can otherwise be a dark area. If you do not have an electrical outlet in your entry consider adding a ceiling light. I love using a nice chandelier or lantern style light. And make sure your light is installed high enough that guests don’t bump their heads or the door bangs it when opening. I use flush mount or semi-flush mount lights for entries with low ceilings.

### Tip No. 5: Tray, bowl or basket

Decorative trays or bowls are great for corralling the clutter. Car keys tossed into a bright ceramic bowl versus tossed onto the table make the space feel organized. And who wants to see that pile of junk mail piled up waiting to be read? Instead toss



it into a pretty basket to be sorted through later.

### Tip No. 6: Fresh Flowers

And finally, never underestimate the power of fresh flowers. Yes it can seem like a bit of an indulgence to have fresh flowers on a weekly basis. But how about an orchid or other flowering plant? You will be greeted with fresh blooms for weeks on end. I love buying the inexpensive orchids from Trader Joe’s and popping them into a decorative pot or bowl and adding some Spanish moss around the top. I can get six to eight weeks of blooms before having to replace them.

And there you have it, my top ideas for creating a warm and welcoming entrance. I hope this inspired you to create a little space of beauty in your own home.

Until next time!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home’s interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, “Beauty is a necessity.”

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.

