

Divide and rule

A brilliant way to spice up your living space making it more useful is by adding more dimensions, and a great way to do that is through room dividers. Not only do room dividers make for chic décor, but also are useful as spectacular tools to slyly create partitioned spaces within an apartment, lending to more use without clutter or restricting the space permanently. Let us look at how different room dividers may be used for maximum impact.

CURTAINS

Yes, yes! It might sound overused or a cliché but you can actually never go wrong with a good old set of curtains. Ranging from gauzy white sheers personifying heavenly grace with minimalist sophistication or gorgeously embroidered velvet drapes which scream glamour; when used correctly in accordance to the personality of the home, curtains are always a hit and can be used as excellent room dividers. Try not to go for too bright shades if used within a smaller area and it might become an eyesore, so opt for earthier hues. And if you are an airy fairy person, let your personality shine by using the perfect set of perhaps muslin or georgette curtains which will flow with the morning breezes and will fulfill the aesthetic of your home.

WOOD

Of course, sometimes intricacy weighs out simplicity and that is the case in terms of classic wood partitions with delicate carvings and bits of metal inlays to channel vintage aristocracy. Make sure if you do opt to settle for these timeless pieces, your home is able to absorb it in. Sometimes it is very hard to resist this option but when in action it might end up looking rather gaudy, so it is absolutely crucial to prep up your home accordingly; after all an unwise mix between classic and contemporary might prove to be rather disastrous. Of course a more exotic divider is using very simple and elegant wooden planks commonly seen in Japanese households. Fans of minimalism and simplicity should definitely go with this option.

INDOOR PLANTS

This might seem to be a more desirable choice to the Dhaka dwellers who have embraced eco-friendly living to the fullest. Might seem like an eccentric idea to many, but millennials pursuing a healthy lifestyle, or plant lovers might find it to be an excellent way of dividing a large space within the house. Using indoor plants as partitions is a particularly creative and beautiful solution to the room divider issue. These vines climb up ropes to create an indoor jungle that also separates spaces. However plant dividers require regular trimming (along with water) to keep healthy and shapely, thus proving to be a difficulty for some but at the end it is definitely worth it.

SHELVES AND GLASS

Other techniques of room dividers include using bookshelves, art installments or glass doors. Thai glass doors though dull and very common might just prove to be the perfect room divider you would need for your house. To liven it up, you might use tinted glass with bold patterns which will give a modern chicness to your household without diving into kitsch. As for bookshelves, it is an amazing technique to flaunt your hardcover beauties and adding a touch of intellect to your home and is often a handsome and risk free room divider. You can never go wrong with books, can you?!

By Jahanara Tariq



USING FLOWER AS DECOR

From adding a pop of colours to complementing the subtle aesthetics of your homes, the art of flower arrangement is one that can instantly make your abode perk up. In fact, the Japanese have a whole artform called Ikebana, dedicated to the delicate art of flower arrangement. While you don't quite have to spend hours mastering Ikebana or even learning it, adding a bit of nature to your homes can do wonders, both in terms of decor and even uplifting your mood. So, if you're looking for a fresh way to decorate



your home, try flowers.

"Knowing my love for flowers, my family usually brings bouquets when they come to visit. I have a collection of quirky vases in my living room, and soon enough, one portion of the room is pleasantly turned into an artificial garden or even a florist shop!" said Mrs. Akhter.

For those of you confused on how to start, here's a few shortcuts that can take your interior designing skills up a notch, and effortlessly make you look like a pro in flower arrangement.

PICK YOUR SHADES

Instead of picking anything that looks great in the florist windows, start with a theme. Ask yourself exactly how you want flowers to fit into your decor. Do you want it to be the centre of attention in a large dining room? Then pick colours



that contrast the walls and the furniture there and opt for large blooms. Or would you rather have flowers complementing an exquisite showpiece in your living room? In that case, opt for smaller blooms and more toned down colours. A neutral bouquet can be the finishing touch to a bright background.

Alternatively, you could use similar colours to create an ombre effect, or even opt for a bit of wild vibe by picking only wild blooms.

USE QUIRKY VASES

No, that doesn't mean you have to get the most expensive one in the market, but try to be creative with your vases. Make sure you pick the right shape and colour. For overgrown bouquets, opt for birch vases with a rustic vibe. For an exotic vibe, flared vases are in fashion. Small candle-holders or teacups can also be used for small blooms to give your house a chic personality. You could even brush up your DIY skills or recycle old used containers to give it a creative look. For example, pickle jars make really good vases and can give your summer blooms that added oomph.

ADD HEIGHT

An especially useful advice for urbanites living in apartment complexes with limited space is to hang planters as a great way to add nature to your homes and also add dimensions to your walls. Opt for contrast in picking the containers. For example, if you have white walls, use bright colourful containers. Whether it is funky geometric shapes or more typical woven baskets, flowers on top can be a classy way to make your house look exciting. You could even use them as central wall hangings in your living room, or for subtle detailing in corridors. For a dramatic effect, play around with lighting to make the flowers pop out. These effortless changes will be ideal for making your house stand out.

By Adiba Mahbub Proma
Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed