Click to Print

Real Estate

Family photos create ever-changing interior design

[Print] [Email]   Share SHARE

By: Merlisa Lawrence Corbett
Special to The Washington Examiner
August 1, 2010

When Alison Griffin and her husband Paul planned their wedding, they decided to allocate a high percentage of the budget toward photography.

"As opposed to the band and table decorations, photographs are going to stay with us forever," said Alison Griffin.

The Griffins applied the same philosophy to redecorating their Kingstowne townhouse.

With the help of interior designer Paola McDonald, they dismissed every myth they ever heard about showcasing personal photos in upscale design and made family portraits the focal point.

Alison and Paul Griffin made a point of taking photos of their children as they grew. Designer Paola McDonald helped them incorporate those photos into their decor.

"She said she had all these great pictures but wasn't sure what to do with them," said McDonald. "When I walked in and saw all of these photos it was like eye candy. It's rare you have a client who has so much great art already."

McLean photographer Virginia Payne took all the photos, starting with a maternity session when Alison was pregnant with their first son, Nicholas. After Nicholas was born Payne scheduled photo sessions every three months. Nicholas and younger brother Benjamin are the subjects in most of the photos. But the Griffins and extended family are pictured in others.

"If it were just snap shots it would have a whole different feel," said Griffin. "But this is art."

The largest collage begins in the play area of the family room and extends up the stairway to a vaulted ceiling above the second floor landing. This collage, a series of baby pictures of the two boys, features more than 10 photos in black frames with beaded borders.

Griffin keeps the design fresh by adding photos and switching out others. "It's a rotating gallery. Every time I visit it's different," McDonald said.

Mixing color photography and black-and-white in the same collage is OK, said McDonald, as long as there is one dominant element to bring them together, such as the frame material or color.

Resources

Virginia Payne Photography

virginiapaynephotography.com

Creative Elegance Interiors

creativeeleganceinteriors.com

In the basement, Griffin used ornate gold and glacier blue frames. The color scheme is repeated in long sateen window treatments, two large gold Kincaid chairs, silver sage painted walls and a tapestry throw.

McDonald suggests using brown craft paper to trace the backs of the frames to create a blueprint for your collage. Then use painter's tape to mount the shapes on the wall.

"You can design your collage on the wall before you put any nail holes in it," McDonald said. "There are no rules. Play around with it until you come up with an arrangement you like."

US Stock Market Indexes		
Symbol	**Last**	**Change**
DJIA® *	10465.94	-1.22
NYSE	6998.99	4.42
Nasdaq	2254.70	3.01
S & P 500	1101.60	0.07
NYSE Volume		4697721
Nasdaq Volume		2168665

GET QUOTE.. Go

Stock InfoMarket Monitor

To view this site, you need to have Flash Player 8.0 or later installed. Click here to get the latest Flash player.

MOST POPULAR STORIES

Chris Matthews' daughter tackles the deficit

To historians, Obama pledged to 'speak less often' in future

WaPo buries Dem fundraiser's fraud, highlights GOP fundraising scandal

Hapless SEC can now hide its secrets

Obama unemployment news conference featured Va. woman convicted of drug fraud

It's not just Rangel — Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., to be tried on ethics charges

Growing 'independent' nature of electorate is helping GOP

NYT: 'No more disputing' economic recovery has slowed down, jobs outlook 'discouraging'

Obama, Congress create another bailout fund

Eight congressmen now calling for Rangel to give up his seat

.t_links_box { font-family: arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; width: 300px; height: auto; /* border: 1px solid #ccc; */ margin: 10px 0px 10px 0px; padding: 10px; /* line-height: 10px; */ line-height: auto; height: auto; } .t_links_box p { margin: 0px padding: 0px; /* line-height: 0px; */ } .t_links_box p.heading, .heading { font-size: 11px; font-weight:bold; padding: 0; margin: 0px 0px 20px 0px; /* line-height: 10px; */ } .t_links_box .t_links { /* padding: 0px 0px 5px 0px; */ padding: 0px 0px 10px 0px; /* border-bottom: 1px solid #ccc; */ } .t_links_box .text a { font-size: 12px; text-decoration: none; font-weight:bold; color: #333; } .t_links_box .text a:hover { text-decoration: underline; } .t_links_box .before_text a { font-size: 11px; text-decoration: none; color: #333; } .t_links_box .before_text a:hover { text-decoration: underline; } .t_links_box .after_text { font-size: 11px; }

[Moving companies](#)

A good

[payday cash advance](#)

resource.

[Truck Rentals](#)

Scottsdale Real Estate

Free Real Estate Lease Forms

.submission { display: none; } .submission { display: none; }

Reader Comments

All comments on this page are subject to our Terms of Use and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Examiner or its staff. Comment box is limited to 200 words. Comments that advocate violence, racism, or libel as well as comments written in ALL CAPS are not permitted.

blog comments powered by Disqus

RSS | Twitter | Facebook | Intern | Video | Maps | Mobile | Contact Us | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy | Rack Locations | Advertise

Find this article at:

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/economy/real-estate/Family-photos-create-ever-changing-interior-design-1001685-98860724.html

Click to Print

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.