a touch of DRAMA

Something tightly coherent, often referred to as a 'vignette' in interior-speak, or a strong or unexpected item can make a dramatic interior statement.

Lorraine Chassels, XS Interiors/EX Showhouse Furniture

The 'now' factor in a property often comes from a bit of interior drama. Apart from the use of a dramatic wallpaper or paint colour, items or groups of items can really make a statement. Be cautious though not to overdo it. Severe drama can be eye-catchy in a show house for example, but very tiresome in a real 'living' interior. Unfortunately, many property owners having 'overdone it' result in a rethink and ultimately costly make over once the infatuation fades. Here are a few examples where drama in room sets have the right balance between 'wow' and 'usability'.

1. Just one feature wall was painted in red to set the pace for this eclectic room, adding a touch of drama.

2. The vignette, featured here, shows drama in a strong area. On a small wall using tightly coherent pieces, a dark console is red with tall taupe buffet lamps, a very sociable charger plate on a stand, and in further dramatism by a grand feature mirror in the foreground the dark dining table is again tightly accessorised to match. Although the bease colour way is stretched, the drama comes from large-scale items and proximity.

3. Carved and set with assets these scandental Burmese Angels, set on mirrored plinths, are totally unexpected and beautifully flare a large piece of contemporary art to create a dramatic wall setting.

4. In a simple light wood hall, the contrasting use of dark wenge creates an impact and richness. A large dark wenge fat height bookcase, used for object d'art, with large scale matching mirror on along side a quirky run of three unusual tapery seats in wenge textured planters.

5. An unexpected gilt framed bevelled mirror with inlay creates drama on a 'quiet' wall and not only creates a greater feeling of space, but also reflects the beautiful view outside.

6. A huge piece of art, like the massive block of painting on canvass pictured here, was used to great effect on the wall of this table height stairway, filled simple. Its sheer size and drama colour way creates drama.

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