

## *My top Five 'What Not to Buy' for your House*

### **Too much wimpy looking wrought iron furniture**



Pier 1 (for example) carries lots of great accessories but way too many inexpensive tables that look like these plants stands. I think they are too light and easy to pick up and take home when you need an end table or something for your entry but they lack substance and are usually not the right scale. So unless it's a one-off piece, leave it in the store. Too much of anything (including lots of matching furniture) looks 'big box' instead of 'collected'.

### **Decorative Words as Art**



I think words are best used seasonally like Merry Christmas, however, too many words angled on mantles and bookshelves can start looking tacky. I have DREAM in my office and it totally inspires me. So I say pick one word and leave it at that.

## Torchiere Lights



These lights are inexpensive but generally light up the ceiling and that's about it. If you are on a budget, it's better than nothing, however if you are wondering why your space doesn't have atmosphere this lamp is a big reason. A torchiere light works best in a room with high vaulted ceilings because that is where it's directed in the first place. For more on lighting, click on the archives to read my "Embrace the Dark Side of your House" post from February 2010.

## Sticks in a Vase



I found this image from a post that was already named with this headline. And here I thought it was original. I laughed so hard over her descriptions, I included the URL here so you could have a giggle: <http://eatgreylove.blogspot.com/2011/02/sticks-in-vase.html>



This is how they should be displayed. Curly and colourful, not just a bunch of sticks piled in a 'too small' vase. I have sticks in a vase too in my master bedroom but they are curly and placed in a big vase 😊 I'll show you when I start finishing that room so stay tuned.

### **The Open TV Console**



Enough Said?

If you have one of these, I'm quite sure it's not your fault because they are sold in the same stores where you buy the TV. Sigh. There are simply way too many wires and unsightly boxes here to have it live anywhere in the realm of good taste.

Copyblogger recently wrote a post about the show 'What not to Wear' and said that sometimes it's better to explain what doesn't work rather than always focusing on 'what to do'. It's easy to show beautiful rooms with the 'right' furniture but harder to figure out what to do in your own space. So I hope this post gives you some more inspiration to help you make your house happier when you walk in the door!

And if you need some help in creating atmosphere in your home, contact me at [info@mariakillam.com](mailto:info@mariakillam.com)