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Capture the Moments

Two HGTV stars share their favorite ways to display photos

BY NANCY DUNHAM



Cathy Hobbs

Cathy Hobbs Design Recipes, New York
HGTV's *Design Star*

A FEW DECADES AGO, American homes were filled with framed graduation and wedding portraits, snapshots of daily life displayed on the refrigerator, and vacation photos arranged in slide carousels.

While the space- and time-challenged among us might not mourn that trend, many still would like to show off family photos without logging on.

Five-time Emmy award winner Cathy Hobbs, founder of Cathy Hobbs Design Recipes in New York, is among those who have found a way to marry traditional photos with modern styling while keeping time, effort and cost low.

"I love family photos," she says. "One of the things I often love doing is displaying family photos—vacation photos and photos of other memorial events."

A vacation to Nantucket, Mass., inspired Hobbs to combine photos, postcards and tiles in a vintage windowpane, reminiscent of the older homes in that area.

"You can tell a story with your photos. And kids can get involved, too," says Hobbs, but she cautions against making the theme too broad. "What often happens is people go overboard with it, making it a shrine to the last 20 or 30 years of memories. That can take away from the décor."

Instead, choose photos and mementos from a special vacation or life event to make the display "sophisticated and elegant," she says.

Entryways, hallways and even powder rooms are often overlooked areas that benefit from such displays.



Kerry Howard

KMH Interiors, Atlanta
HGTV's *Design Wars*

Kerry Howard of KMH Interiors, Atlanta, whose television credits include HGTV's *Design Wars*, did just that with Roswell, Ga., clients who wanted to modernize the interior of their historic townhomes.

One of the clients had photographed a lush magnolia. The photo was professionally re-sized and separated into three pieces.

"We hung it as one piece," says Howard. "That modernized it, but also gave it the historic tone you'd want for that home."

Gallery wall tips

There are many ways to rehab old window frames or mirrors to give the display a hint of nostalgia



1. First, decide on a theme and specifically what you'd like to display.
2. Consider whether to paint or distress the wood.
3. Measure the opening or openings so you can size photos that are slightly larger.
4. Add a support element—such as cork or cardboard or an archival paper to preserve the photos—to the back of the frame or pane.
5. Use an adhesive to attach the photos, cards and memorabilia to the backing.
6. You may also want to attach glass to the front to secure the elements and give the piece a finished look.