



Make an Impressive Entrance

“Altar” your entry space to instill an immediate sense of calm in your home

By Laurel House and Jagatjyoti Khalsa

What does the entryway to your home look like? Not only does it make a first impression, the entrance is also a place of transition from the outer world into your own personal space. Instead of clutter everywhere—scattered shoes, coats disorgan-

ized, piles of mail, and an overall sense of disarray—let your entrance create a calm, welcoming greeting for you and for anyone who comes to visit.

As you enter, take a good look at the first images you see: Do they create the impression you want to make? Consider all the elements you may have or want to add: statues, artwork, flowers, old dowry chests, funky found pieces of furniture, or wood-carvings (new and antique). Like the introduction to a book, your entrance sets the tone and tells you, your family, and friends what to expect in this space.

How to create a calm entryway:

- **Clean house:** Get rid of clutter, junk, mail, anything just thrown down and left. It’s not a dumping ground.
- **Be practical:** Yes, there are things that you need near the front door. If you don’t have a closet, place a table with drawers designed to hold specific items: mail, keys, dog leash, etc. You can also secure attractive hooks to the wall to hang your coats, hats, umbrellas, etc.

Say it with flowers

In Victorian times, flowers each had a very specific meaning. Here are a few that say “we’re glad you’re here”:

Casablanca lilies fill a space with their rich scent—and welcome guests with open arms.

Lilacs have a warm color and subtle scent.

Sunflowers exude positive energy with their sunny disposition.

Herbs bunched in small vases awaken the senses and have a grounding effect.

Orchids are low-maintenance, stylish, sophisticated, and unscented.

Roses work in any room, from classic to contemporary. A pink rose stands for friendship; red represents passionate love; white stands for purity; yellow is zealous; red and white means unity.

Fresh lemons and oranges or **lemon and orange blossoms** floating in a glass bowl filled with water freshen up any space with their clean, upbeat aroma.

- **Invite immediate calm:** Let the first thing you see when you walk in be something that makes you feel peaceful—perhaps a table adorned with a photo of your child or the vacation you just took. You can also add fresh flowers (see sidebar, above) and a statue of Buddha, Jesus, or a Hindu deity that inspires you.



- **Adorn your entrance with things that are meaningful:**

You don’t want to fill the space with just any old stuff. Think about each element. What effect do certain colors have on you? What about light and scent? Remember, this space is the first thing you see when you walk into your home, and the last thing you see when you leave. 🧘

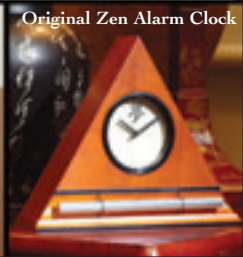


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