

Using Wrought Iron for Added Drama



Five years ago my husband and I purchased a home with a seven foot high stucco retaining wall that meandered around the perimeter of our home. It was professionally constructed but the wall was cold and stark looking. In the back yard the stucco wall was supported by a stamped cement patio floor. The area was totally functional with little upkeep but it felt very sterile. There was no softness anywhere.

After six months of pondering through several ideas I stumbled into wrought iron embellishments by chance. I attended an accessory show in San Francisco and was captivated with the idea of iron furnishings, particularly a gazebo. A gazebo would add immediate softness and height to a totally boring backyard. Plus, I could hand pots of greenery in the openings.

The gazebo was a more affordable solution than building a patio cover. Assembly was easy and the structure can be moved to another location if I desire.

I also saw how the ironwork could be used in numerous other applications. Iron works very well with a grouping of wall art to create more interest in an area and it also looks great over doorways.

I was working with a client who wanted a Tuscan look in her home. During completion of the installation, we both noted the opening over the stone fireplace needed something. We already had enough art in the room and the opening we needed to feel was 65 inches wide by 20 inches deep. It was a very strange size. Bingo...the solution was a 62-by 17- inch iron wall grille that was perfect for the space and had the right feeling. Wow! What a look.

Another client had three windows in their nook installed 40 inches from the ceiling. They had eliminated the upper windows and created a huge boring area that made the windows appear short and squatty. Solution – we placed a large wall grille to gracefully fill up the space without it looking cluttered.

Iron furnishings may be placed inside or outside of the home and looks great on the exterior walls of the new stucco homes. Many of the new developments look alike and most do not have mature trees, plants and landscaping to soften the exteriors. Iron adds an element of design that wood and plastic materials cannot and can add real interest to a home.

When people think of wrought iron they think of custom work. This is not necessarily true. Iron can be an inexpensive way to soften our existing spaces.

If you are trying to give an existing home a facelift or just purchased a new home with no personality, iron embellishments could be a good direction to go. When ordering iron, please remember placement and balance. Remember, "Balanced interiors don't cost more, they just feel better."