

# POSTERITY CENTRAL

## If you don't love it, live without it

By Wayne Karl

**Women. Can't live with 'em, can't live . . . Oops, sorry, wrong Man Cave!**

It's not women we can't live without this month (that's a year-round thing, for the record) it's those cherished keepsakes from years past and special moments gone by, that we want to keep and display for others to enjoy.

These days, with limited space and time and the trend to reduce clutter, it's all about being selective and organized, quality over quantity.

"If you don't love it, live without it," advises Jackie Morra, design consultant, Home Décor Solutions, Toronto.

And when it comes to "displaying it," a posterity space should be a focal point of a room, but not overwhelm it.

"If someone collected hand-carved art from their travels, for example, displaying the pieces in designated areas rather than all over the room is more inviting," says Morra. "Another option is to distribute the collection – particularly if there are several pieces – subtly throughout the home, instead of concentrating everything to one area."

One typical challenge with such collectables is safety and security, since the items are often irreplaceable and/or considered priceless by the owners.

"There's a fine line of wanting to cherish and display them, and the fear of them being damaged, lost or stolen."

Environmental factors such as smoke, sunlight, children and pets must also be considered, so displays should be designed with these issues in mind, she says.

Common collectables include art, photos, sports memorabilia and family heirlooms. But they also range to the more, um, interesting. Morra has one client who dedicates an area in his home to vintage basketball shoes; another collects rare beer bottles; and one has dozens of autographed hockey pucks, displaying each one because he personally met every player who signed them.

One of the more unusual projects Morra consulted on was for a client who collects sand from all over the world.



Yes, *sand*.

"It started when he was a teenager, travelling for the first time on his own, and he would keep sand in clear glass bottles. He began to notice the uniqueness of the sands, in terms of colour and texture. Using interestingly shaped bottles, it was a great and inexpensive way to remember the fun and memorable places he visited."

Now totalling almost 50 bottles, the sand collection has samples from all over the world, from the foot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris to outside the Colosseum in Rome.

"It also became a way for him to commemorate moments that may not have been in exotic places, such as wedding anniversaries, weekend getaways, sporting events or bunkers from his favourite golf courses," says Morra. "The distinctiveness of the sands reminded him of how equally unique each place and moment was."

Each bottle is suitably marked with the site name, and corked and waxed so it can't be opened. Ever.

Posterity, indeed.