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→ **OUR
FALL
STYLE
ISSUE**

THE SEASON'S
HOTTEST COLORS

ACCESSORIES
WE'RE LOVING NOW

STUNNING
MAKEOVERS



**BUY YOUR
OWN HOME:
HERE'S HOW**
P. 88

ROSARIO DAWSON

**ON PLAYING BY HER OWN RULES
IN HOLLYWOOD, POLITICS AND LIFE**

**THE
LATINA
BEAUTY
AWARDS**

36

AMAZING
SKIN, HAIR
AND NAIL
PRODUCTS
YOU'LL
SWEAR BY

MEET THE
INSPIRING
LATINA
WHO
SAVED A
TEXAS
SCHOOL

P. 90

Latina.com SEPTEMBER 2012
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THE GOOD LIFE

Elegant Entryway

WHETHER IT'S BIG OR SMALL, THE FOYER IS THE FIRST SPACE GUESTS SEE WHEN THEY ENTER YOUR HOME. HERE'S HOW TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION FROM THE START.

By Martin Amado

FURNITURE THAT FITS ▼

Foyers are separate from the rest of the living areas. They function as a welcoming entryway, and can be decorated as their own rooms. But even if your front door opens into your living room, you can use furniture to create the illusion of a foyer. Positioning a sofa with its back to the entrance is a great way to create two defined areas. The goal is not to crowd the entryway with too much furniture or pieces that block the traffic flow. Instead, add a few well-proportioned items to make it functional and inviting.



WALL ART ▼

To give the illusion of a bigger space, place a mirror above the bench or console. To achieve a more dramatic look for less, hang a cluster of individual mirrors in the same shape for a bigger focal point, or create a free-form design on the wall by hanging a collection of mirrors in different shapes and sizes. Or decorate with a series of prints or wall art that complement your home's decor.



BLUE HAPPY TREE, Pier 1 Imports, \$30, pier1.com

ACCENT LIGHTING ►

Brighten your foyer by choosing lighting fixtures that make an impact without overpowering the space. A ceiling pendant lamp is understated yet elegant. Make sure it's the right size and proportioned for the space. If you have a grand entranceway, a chandelier makes a rich and luxurious impact when hung above a round table. Wall sconces, whether electric or with candles, can also be used as accent lighting in a foyer.



CALAIS CHANDELIER, Z Gallerie, \$399, zgallerie.com

STORAGE SOLUTIONS ▼

A padded storage bench near the door is a useful place to keep backpacks, shoes and anything else you need outside. During the colder months, it's great for storing coats, scarves and gloves. For smaller things such as keys, mail or a handbag, opt for a console table that can also serve as a display surface for frames, room diffusers and decorative boxes. If your foyer is too narrow for a table, an alternative is to install a floating ledge at a standard table height (30 inches)—different look, same function. The area underneath can double as additional storage with the use of stacked trunks, baskets or small ottomans. And if you go with ottomans, they can be used as extra seating for parties.

THRESHOLD HERRINGBONE STORAGE TOTE, Target, \$25, target.com



FLOOR DECOR ▼

Don't forget about the floor. A small area rug or runner helps to create a welcoming environment every time you enter and gives your guests somewhere to wipe their feet when they visit. Make sure and place a rug pad underneath to prevent it from moving, as this is a high-traffic area. For added style, place an umbrella stand in the corner near the door and use plants to bring some greenery inside.



COLOR CRYSTAL RUNNER, CB2, \$199, cb2.com

MARTIN AMADO is a Cuban American interior designer, lifestyle expert, contributing writer and television expert on the subject of home decor.