

Make Your Photo Stand Out With a Proper Frame Design

When a photo is framed, it gains a sense of value. An appropriate frame design can help an average photo look great.

Black and white photos should be surrounded with black, white or gray mats. Any suggestion of colour adds an element that is not present in the picture. The gray tones in black and white photos diminish the overall contrast, making them less bold and more susceptible to distraction by the foreign colour.



As much as I am opposed to the introduction of a colourful mat, I would be more likely to use the colour as my predominant top mat and place the accent of black, white or grey below it to serve as a transition into the photo. With all that colour surrounding the photo, it isolates the photo and in a sense calls attention to it. A frame is necessary for any picture because it provides the transition between the picture and the wall on which it is hung. The size of a picture, the subject matter, movement, colour and the medium in which it is done all affect the choice of a frame.

One general rule applies to all frames: they must not attract attention away from the picture. Stronger subjects – buildings, for instance – require larger frames than delicate subjects such as children, even though the pictures are of the same size. Simple subjects, such as peasants, require stout plain frames; aristocratic ladies require frames in character; masculine portraits should usually have plain frames; and close-up subjects generally require wider mouldings than distant scenes, even if the pictures are the same size.

Submitted by Pat Schnurr

Picture It Framed is located at 3071 Dundas St. West (1/2 block west of High Park Ave.). 416-762-1221. www.pictureitframed.ca

