

Dollar Saving Decorating

Add panache with some simple style switches

by Lori Welch



Photo courtesy of Rooms With a View; Artist Soraya Jones

BLOOM YOUR ROOM: Add splashes of color with vibrant wall art.

Changing the look of your home doesn't have to mean changing zip codes or depleting your savings. Create a fun, new seasonal look by merely switching out your home accessories. "Home accessories? I'm still struggling with which belt to wear." When thinking about home accessories, keep your seasonal wardrobe in mind. When warm weather hits, we tuck away our dark wools and switch them out with our lighter, brighter wear. Why not do the same thing for your living and dining room areas? Your home accessories include items such as throw rugs, wall hangings, pillows, window treatments and table lamps. Liza Walczak of Liza Jane Interiors in Sterling, Va., tells her clients, "change a piece of art and you change the look of your room." Pull

out colors from your art with decorative pillows and rugs. "Slipcovers have come a long way," Walczak adds. "They're a really great way to change the entire look of a room without investing a lot of money."

A wonderful (and inexpensive) way to lighten and brighten is to think in terms of bringing the outdoors in. "When it gets too hot to even think about being outdoors, create a look that makes you and your guests feel like they're outside when they're sitting in your cool, air-conditioned living room," says interior design guru Sue Rosenbaum of Rooms With a View in Washington, D.C. "Think less formal—let your hair down. Acrylic plates and stemware are fun and come in great colors and patterns."

Don't sweat the small stuff—but



Photo courtesy of Pier1 Imports

focus on smaller-scale items. Think about areas where you can add a “bloom” of color. Trading your navy towels, in the guest bath, for a peony pink provides an immediate boost. Don’t be afraid to mix your blooms. Add other bright colors in the form of candles and hand soaps and voila—you’ve got a cool, summery look.

Retailers such as Homegoods, Marshalls, Pier 1 Imports and Target are great places to scout for brightly-colored pillows, rugs, placemats and towels, but don’t overlook gift shops and plant nurseries as they tend to stock fun, eclectic pieces. Exploring Nora’s Arlington Gift & Garden is an adventure. This cozy, kitschy establishment on Wilson Boulevard is overflowing with scented candles, brightly-colored paper lanterns, and strings of lighted flowers (they instantly transform your indoor space into a flair-filled, romantic setting). Be sure to also hit up Eclectic Nature in Alexandria, Va., and Rooms With a View for their unique accent pieces. For the ultimate explorer, yard sales and flea markets offer great mines for seasonal treasures.

If hunting down the perfect throw rug isn’t your strong suit, how about changing the color of the room? There are so many great colors to choose from, however, it can be overwhelming. Thankfully, most paint stores now offer sample portions (think baby food jar) to test before you commit to a gallon. Remember—you don’t have to commit to an entire room. Select an accent wall, brush on a bright, bold color and let the transformation begin before your very eyes.

Last, but not least, think outside the box. Walczak recommends adding a potted plant or container garden to your front porch. It’s a great way to say, “It’s summer—welcome to my home.”



Photo courtesy of Eclectic Nature

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