



Small
Makeovers,
BIG
Difference

Home interior changes
that revive your rooms, but
don't break your budget ◦

By Karina Timmel



Get started

In today's world, "simplification" is one of the new decorating buzzwords. So, when it comes to a room redo on a budget, a great way to maximize the design makeover is to minimize the

number of decorative items in the room. "I recommend simply removing extra accessories, furniture and clutter to open up a space for new design possibilities. There's enough stress in our lives, so why be overwhelmed by too many things?"

says Susan Currie, Allied Member ASID, with Susan Currie Design LLC.

Here are some suggestions from Currie to help you get started:

- ▶ **Part with accessories** you're tired of or that have outlived their

Sitting Room Spruce-Up

By Cathy Dransman and Renee Price, partners, Intown Staging and Design



Photos courtesy of Intown Staging and Design

This sitting room was originally very drab and monotonous. Everything was tan, beige or white. To makeover the space, the team at Intown Staging and Design used simple solutions that made a big impact. The homeowner wanted to keep the room fairly neutral, so Dransman and Price kept within his parameters, but utilized neutrals in strong, contrasting colors. The contrast between all the paints, fabrics and finishes make the room more visually stimulating. They kept most of the furniture, but added a great patterned rug and

a pop of color with an orange side chair. To complete the room, drapery was added to the windows, which is a simple change that doesn't have to cost a lot and can make a significant difference.



Expert Tip

"Would you rather buy something you love once or would you settle for something you don't love two or three times? If a shopper has a limited budget, wait another week or even one more month to add to the funds before making the purchase. You'll end up with a higher-quality product and a happier overall experience. Consider that the \$299 bed will probably need to be replaced after one friendly pillow fight. While not everybody wants to spend \$3,000 on a dream bed, you can find a wide range of stylish and durable beds for under \$1,000. Therefore, for the major pieces in a room, take a little extra time and go for quality over cheap."

—Rodney Clayton, owner, Sana's Urban Design

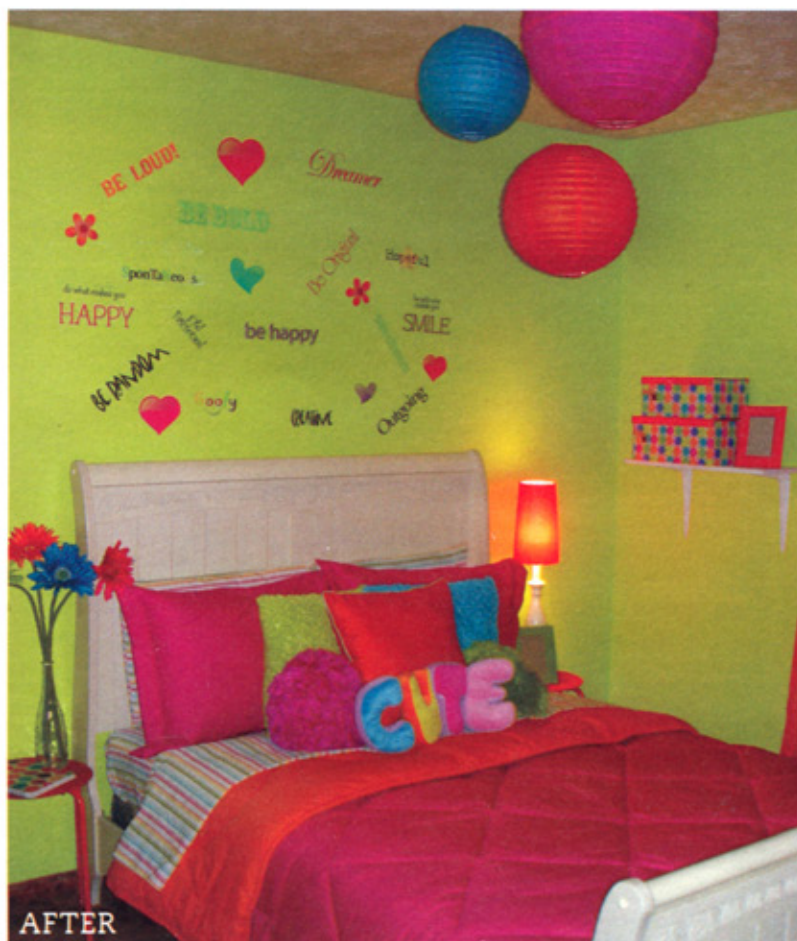
usefulness. Donate them to charity or toss what's worn out. Remember that well-maintained furniture and accessories can be placed in a consignment shop for sale. This can add some extra cash toward your room makeover budget.

- ▶ **Keep accessories** and art that uniquely reflect your style. It might be as simple as using a great piece of art from a vacation so that it becomes an interesting focal point.
- ▶ **Evaluate your furniture layout.** If you are unsure about how to do

this, a designer can help plan a great layout. A good design uses proper proportion and scale to achieve balance and harmony in a room. Functionality is another important element of design to consider. ●

Brightened Kids' Room

By Jamye Barnes, nationally certified interior redesigner and accredited fashion merchandiser, Pink Pineapple Interiors



Photos courtesy of Pink Pineapple Interiors

This girls' room makeover involved stripping the old wallpaper, painting the walls and purchasing new bedroom sets and decor from big-box retailers (IKEA, Big Lots, Wal-Mart, Marshalls, etc.). In addition, Barnes added special touches to give the decor a unique look while keeping the cost down, such as:

- ▶ Inexpensive foam dots were used as additional wall treatment (saving on having to paint different color dots).
- ▶ Stools now serve as night tables.
- ▶ Gumballs were placed in apothecary jars, instead of purchasing an expensive gumball machine, which was the initial intent.

Expert Tip

"Creativity trumps cost! When your budget is small, get creative and step outside the purchasing box. Paint your own masterpiece on a store-bought canvas instead of buying expensive art. Use nature—pinecones, flowers—from your yard for a great centerpiece. Also, instead of trying to address every nook and cranny, make the greatest impact on a few focal points in a room, like the wall you see when you enter the room."

—Jamye Barnes, Pink Pineapple Interiors

- ▶ **Enhance the existing color scheme.** New paint colors incorporated with the existing color palette can spice up your room.
- ▶ **Re-hang art.** Consider moving art from another room to change the look of your room. This small change can bring new appreciation and accentuate beautiful elements of the art.
- ▶ **Spark interest with new and interesting pillows.** Shop stores that carry pillows that fit your budget.
- ▶ **Add interest to your windows** with readymade window treatments. Be patient and watch for sales to get the best price. ▶

Redesigned Dining/Living Area

By Heidi H. Howard, registered interior designer, Expressive Environments



Photos courtesy of Expressive Environments



This particular project required a complete redesign and employed a combination of color, texture, furniture style and placement, plants, chandelier and window treatments. Howard notes that the single biggest and least-expensive means of making a dramatic change to any room is paint, which alters the energy, light and mood. Howard first met with this homeowner to determine their functional needs and aesthetic desires, measure the space and develop a floor plan with approximate furniture size requirements. She then shopped with the client and finalized the artwork placement. The homeowner painted and installed the drapery.

Expert Tip

"Some designers are willing to shop with clients, others are not. Just ask. It can be more cost effective for the homeowner if they window shop on their own time, gather a list of items (and photos) they like, and return to those locations with the designer for a 'final' review prior to purchase."

—Heidi H. Howard, Expressive Environments

Get the most bang for your buck

Start creating a realistic budget. Use it as a guide and make sure you discuss it with your designer or the retail salespeople helping you. By clearly

communicating how much you have to spend, design professionals can find creative ways to stretch your dollars on furniture, accessories, window treatments and labor. In addition, "Projects can be achieved in phases

so that the money you want to spend can be properly invested over a period of weeks or months to accomplish the desired end result," says Heidi Howard, registered interior designer with Expressive Environments. ●

Powder Room Touch-Up

By Cathy Dransman and Renee Price, partners, Intown Staging and Design



Photos courtesy of Intown Staging and Design



This powder room had several elements that were fighting each other. The paint job and mirror were distracting from the beautiful granite counters and maple cabinets. It is important to work with the elements of a space so the room is more visually appealing, Dransman and Price note. An easy fix for this powder room was a coat of neutral paint and a dark, wood-framed mirror so that all of the elements in the bathroom worked in unison.

Expert Tip

"Most of the time, the sales staff at design stores will have some sort of design background and will be able to give you tips to get the most for your money. Setting a budget before you enter a store will also help. That way, the salesperson will be able to narrow down your options."

—Cathy Dransman and Renee Price, Intown Staging and Design

Selecting an Interior Designer

Finding a decorator to take on a small project begins with research. Here are some of Howard's tips for finding the right interior designer for your project:

- ▶ Look for someone whose office is close to your home because a

small profit margin will not justify travel to and from the other side of town.

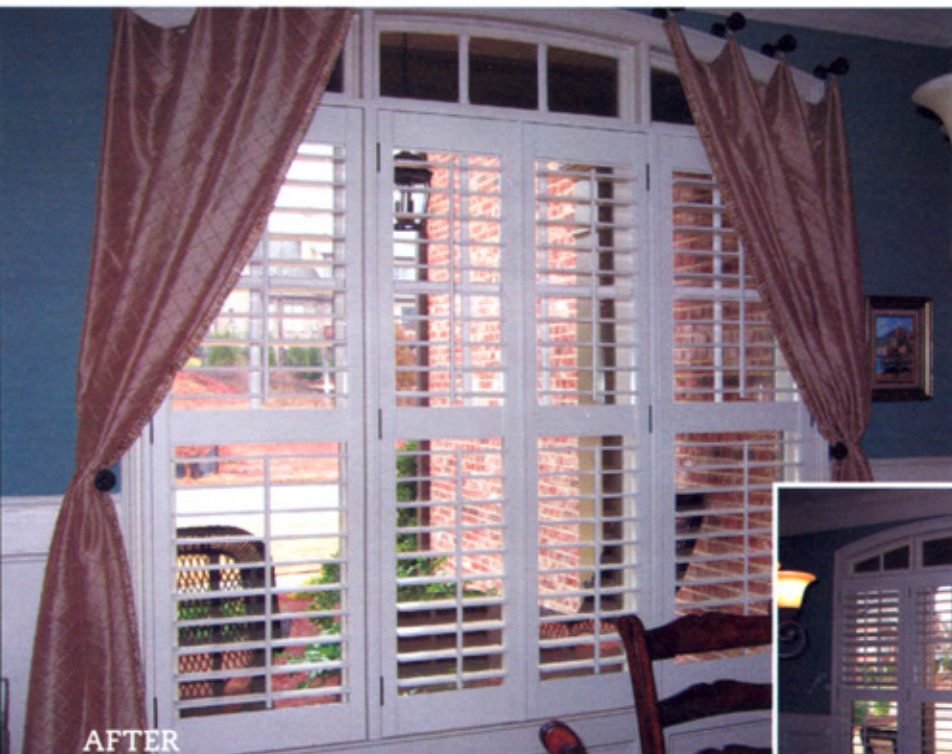
- ▶ ASID and IIDA are professional organizations whose members have degrees in interior design, must complete continuing education classes each year and who list their specialties by type.

- ▶ If the designers you call will work hourly or on small projects, take a few minutes to interview each one by phone.
- ▶ Once you've narrowed it down to two or three candidates, ask for a list of references and check them out.
- ▶ Hire the one you like best! 🏠

Editorial Resources begin on page 101.

Restyled Window Treatment

By Joan Miller, The Blind Ladies



Photos courtesy of The Blind Ladies



Window treatments help to add color, texture and style to an ordinary space. Updating existing window coverings can bring a whole new look to a room. For example, if there are mini-blinds in the windows currently and you want to update the look, changing to a 2-inch blind (either faux-wood or wood) will automatically give the room new life. It opens up the window space and allows a better view, in addition to making it more fashionable. If you want to add a fabric treatment and do not want to break the bank, simple cornices work

well. There is not a lot of fabric involved in making these treatments, and the labor is minimal in comparison to more elaborate valances or swags.

Expert Tip

"While prices can vary significantly depending on many factors—such as size, fabric selection and style—for \$60, you can get a 2-inch faux-wood blind for a medium-sized window installed. For around \$150 or more, you can purchase a decorative shade, depending on options added like decorative hem style, any special trims, or adding a cordless operating system or cassette cover (to hide the plain roller). For \$250, you can get a woven wood shade, a honeycomb shade or even a very simple cornice or Roman shade. For \$500, you could get drapery panels."

—Joan Miller, *The Blind Ladies*