

CHIC DÉCOR

Design - Colour Consultations – Space & Furniture Planning – Window Treatments

Design of the Times 2009

The past few months have taught many of us that our financial investments were not as secure as we once thought. One thing it has taught us though is that our home is our greatest and most stable asset and putting money into it is always a good return on investment. However, if you're not currently in a position to realize your dreams of upsizing your home or undertaking a renovation, take heart, there are some steps you can take to embellish your home in the mean time.

1. Create a budget. Determine how much money you can/have set aside to make some purchases that will freshen your space.
2. Decide on a style. Do you know what style appeals to you? If you're not sure of the answer it's time to peruse some design magazines and tag the pages that speak to you. Once you've done this go over the selection, it should give you some insight as to which style you're drawn to.
3. How much change? If the style you're favouring differs from the one you currently have you may have to re-evaluate unless you have the funds for major change. If that isn't an option and you're certain the new style will complement the existing furniture then you're best option is to purchase smaller accent pieces and accessories to update your room until a later time.
4. How much can I buy and what? Unless you're a consummate shopper you may need to educate yourself on how much items cost and just how far you can stretch your budget. Now that you know what style you like and you have a figure in mind, make a wish list of those pieces you'd like to replace/add to your home. Go to a cross section of stores that carry the items in the styles you like and get information on those items that catch your eye and keep track of their price. Then tally the costs and compare to what you've budgeted for, this will give you a realistic picture of how much decorating you can actually afford.
5. Try some general low cost improvements. Some options to consider:
 - Change the colour on your walls, this will give you a dramatic update for very little cost
 - Purchase new throw cushions and throws in a co-ordinating colour
 - Re-arrange furniture for a new look; even consider exchanging some pieces from one room to another
 - Update existing lamps with new lampshades
 - Add a large tropical palm tree to a room, this gives height and a sculptural element to the space
6. Consider enlisting the help of a design professional who can quickly assess your space and help create an action plan for you determining where you should spend your money for maximum impact, help you choose the most effective styles and colours for your home and lend tips on where to find the right furniture and accessories. It really is money well spent.

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