

Transform Your Home in a Day

For those of us living in Arizona, the summer months mean we spend more time inside. It is during this time that we often begin to closely examine how our home looks, and think about what we would like to change. For some, that will mean a major remodel, but for most, it means smaller, aesthetic changes -- things that can be done pretty quickly, at a relatively low cost.

S Interior Design would like to offer five easy tips to transform your home quickly.

Paint

Add color to the walls and instantly change the look and feel of a room. You can paint an entire room, or choose an accent wall to highlight a focal point in a room. For inspiration, pick color from a favorite piece of artwork, or an area rug that you love. If you are having trouble deciding on what color to paint, get a pint of the various colors and put up samples in the room. We recommend a paint sample be at least 36" x 36" to appreciate how it will look covering an entire wall.



Add Angles

What we mean by that is rearrange your existing furniture so it isn't against the walls. Experiment with angles and avoid the urge to set the furniture up at 90° angles. Furniture sliders, which make moving the heavy items easier, can be purchased at home improvement stores for about \$5.

One way to get started is to determine the rooms' focal point. Often it is a fireplace, sometimes an architecturally interesting piece of furniture. You will want to arrange your furniture to dramatize your focal point. Don't have a focal point? Use this as an opportunity to create one!

Take Inventory

Go shopping in your own home; you may be surprised at what you find. We become accustomed to seeing certain pieces of furniture, artwork and accessories in specific rooms of our home. By simply placing your existing items in new spaces and places, you can have a "new" room. For example, the nightstand from your seldom used guest room might very well be a perfect new side table in your family room. Mix it up, you have nothing to lose. A space is always more interesting when there is a mix of styles and furniture.

Add A Rug

Many homes in the Valley have wide open rooms that flow into one another and a strategically placed area rug can define a space. Area rugs also add color and texture to a room that is otherwise neutral in tone. Additionally, the acoustics in a room that has hard flooring material can be softened by adding a rug. Make sure to layout your furnishings (either physically or on paper) if you are going rug shopping. This way, you will know what size rug will work best. When you shop for an area rug, always bring home some options. The rug will look very different in your room than it will in a store. Vendors recognize this, and allow customers to take out samples "on approval."

Accessorize

Often what are missing from a room are the smaller items that give it unique



personality...the accessories. Accessories can be new items, things that already exist in your house that hold fond memories, or better yet, a combination of new and existing items. The definition of an "accessory" is broad. It is everything from vases and candlestick holders to mirrors and plants.

Some accessorizing rules of thumb

- Group things in odd numbers (3, 5)
- Vary the shapes and sizes of similar items for a more interesting look. For example, arrange three candlesticks of varying heights and widths in the same silver finish.
- Pay attention to scale and overall size of an item. A common mistake is using items that are either too small or too large for the space they are going in...a 12" vase will not look correct in a 5' tall wall niche.

Our final tip is not to get concerned about what you see in magazines, or on TV, or what the in color or design style is; this is YOUR home and you want it to reflect your unique personality and the way you and your family live in it. **SID**

About Suzanne Lasky, A.S.I.D.:

Suzanne Lasky, Allied Member of A.S.I.D. is the owner and founder of S Interior Design, the exclusive provider of Pawprint Design Services. Suzanne works with her clientele to develop a winning combination of design elements that result in warm, comfortable and functional spaces that reflect each client's personal style. To contact Suzanne, please call (480) 220-4659 or visit her Web site at www.sinteriordesign.com

