

OCTOBER 2008

House Beautiful

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YOUR
look,
CHANGE
YOUR
*life!***

**HOW TO
FRESHEN UP
ANY
ROOM**

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**colors
THAT MAKE
YOU LOOK
younger**
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THE LAST WORDS

You change, your house changes. Nine designers tell us how the look of their homes has evolved over the last ten years

Interviews by
SHAX RIEGLER

"I added a dining room. It has really changed the way we live in the house. I originally designed the house with a combination kitchen-dining room, but it became more a kitchen-sitting room. It's wonderful for casual small groups, but I realized we needed—wanted—a real dining room, too. I designed it in the style of a French orange-rie. Now, we don't have to limit ourselves to eight guests. We can give a dinner for 24."

ROBERT COUTURIER



"We've done many 'quiet' updates to our 1920s shingle-and-stone house. The most dramatic is a new room we added with granite walls, an antique French limestone floor, a six-foot-tall limestone fireplace and vaulted ceiling with old oak beams. Even though it's a modernization, it looks so appropriate that when the building inspector came to see it, he asked where the new structure was!"

JACQUELYNNE P. LANHAM

"I never set out to be a collector. But as my acquisitions have grown, I've had to accommodate them. There are many more tables, many more bookcases, and much less wall space. It's as if I'm living on the set of The Blob—'Nothing can stop it!'"

MICHAEL FORMICA

"For years I dreamed of an Indian-style bathroom. Finally I took the plunge. It's my new haven—glamorous, shimmery, magical. I also redid my closet. Now I find everything without getting frenetic. Organizing and de-cluttering has changed my life!"

JENNIFER GARRIGUES

"My home is a lot more relaxed, less rigid. As I've 'matured,' I've gotten comfortable with the serendipitous migration of things. I'm less of a slave to putting things back where they belong. The chairs used to have to sit at perfect right angles to the sofa, but, you know, it's nice when they're angled so I can look out the window or see the TV more easily. It's great to loosen up. And I notice that people are more at ease when they come over because it's not all too-too perfect."

BARRY DIXON

"It really hadn't changed much at all until I recently moved. It's still a big question mark about what I'll do with my new home. All I know is that I want to live more casually with beautiful things. I've gotten rid of most things that I had for the last ten years and, for the moment, the emptiness is quite lovely."

BARBARA BARRY

"I've changed my art and accessories three or four times. I'll find some great item and change everything in the room. I bought a huge 62-x-94-inch 19th-century oil painting that made me rethink everything in the library. An amoeba-shaped polished brass and stone coffee table by Karl Springer spelled doom for the other things in the living room. Bringing in one new piece can take a room in a whole new direction."

JAMES SWAN

"I installed a flat-screen TV in my cabin on Long Island, but I hated how it looked, so I had bookcases built around it. It seemed like an opportune time for a clean-up and edit, and I ended up taking five carloads of bric-a-brac to the Salvation Army. I'm always tinkering but haven't disrupted the original feel of the place, just changed a few fabrics here and there. I always say that one day I'm going to turn it from a fishing cabin to a modern home. But who knows what's next...."

ANTHONY BARATTA

"My houses and style have evolved a lot—mostly because of my wife, Tatiana. The interiors now have more contrast. They're richer, more textured—and much, much softer."

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