

FEBRUARY 2009

House Beautiful

101 DESIGNERS...

101 MAKEOVERS!

QUICK CHANGES
YOU CAN DO NOW



PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]

25 MARTYN LAWRENCE-BULLARD

Change your throw pillows. A couple of bright Turkish-print pillows by Madeleine Weinrib could transform a living room. The same goes for your bed. John Robshaw's hand-blocked shams would add a little exoticism.



26 MARY DOUGLAS DRYSDALE

Make your bathroom feel like a spa. Get rid of the clutter. Buy fabulous overscale towels in a new color. Add a few small candles and light them at night when you have guests.

27 MARY McDONALD

Remove two of your traditional lamps and replace them with silver or nickel architect-style lamps with a bendable arm. Restoration Hardware and Pottery Barn have versions, and David Linley does a beautiful one in wood and metal. They add a streamlined, masculine quality to side tables usually full of too much stuff.



28 KERRY JOYCE

Change out all your kitchen cabinet hardware. I like the old-fashioned colored glass knobs at crowncityhardware.com or restorationhardware.com.

29 SHAWN HENDERSON

To give your rooms a cohesive, polished look, tell a color story with accessories. Start with the living room and strip out all the bits and pieces. Then choose one color and thread it back into the room with vases, candlesticks, pillows, and throws. Place a lacquered tray in the same color on the coffee table.

30 LYNN MORGAN

I found the best little Japanese-style benches at pearlriver.com that could be used for extra seating in almost any room. They're available in teak or mango wood—or you could paint them a fabulous color.

31 STEPHEN SHUBEL

Buy a cherry red mixer from Williams-Sonoma and bake a cake. It's a very 1950s fantasy. Even if you never bake, it would cheer up your kitchen.



32 THOMAS PHEASANT

If you have a dining table that stands dormant most of the time, turn it into a library table. Collect beautiful books and create small stacks around the perimeter of the table. Place a large-scale object—like a globe, a piece of sculpture, or a fantastic topiary—in the center. Then place a small object on top of each stack. I have used tea caddies, magnifying lenses, crystal spheres. Pick anything that interests you.

33 ALEX PAPACHRISTIDIS

For a quick pick-me-up, I buy oversize wicker-wrapped glass hurricanes from larsbolander.com. Pass the rum punch!

34 BROOKE HUTTIG

First, I took down the curtains in my bedroom and lacquered the walls a sexy tan color. Then I made my own moldings with tortoiseshell bamboo—split lengthwise so it lies flat. I used it to outline the windows and the doors and the tray ceiling. Handsome and tropical.

35 EVE ROBINSON

New bedding can make a bedroom feel fresh and new again. Arealhome.com or dwellstudio.com have gorgeous and sophisticated patterns that won't empty your wallet. They even make baby bedding.

36 CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN

Photo murals are back. Coloredgevisual.com or duggal.com have a great selection, or you can submit your own photo and they will scale it according to your wall. Do an entrance foyer, the end wall of a long, dreary hallway, or the ceiling of a tiny powder room, just for fun.

37 AMY LAU

Create the perfect picture wall. I organize my photos according to theme. I like to print my travel photos out in sepia tones and then order frames and matting from thepicturewallcompany.com. They make it so easy that the photos practically arrange themselves on the wall.

38 HERMES MALLEA

I would change all the light bulbs in the house at one go—every single one—thoughtfully selecting the appropriate wattages for specific locations or fixtures. Then, control all that light by installing dimmers with preset buttons so you can return to your favorite light level. Maybe add simple picture lights to some of your artwork.

39 CAMPION PLATT

If you've got a flat-screen TV, don't leave it blank. Program it with video art.

40 JAMIE DRAKE

I like to do this myself at least once a year. Take every last loose piece on every surface—photos, vases, candlesticks, books, magazines—whatever is cluttering up your vision and chances are you no longer even see. Put them on a counter in the kitchen, then redeploy in new arrangements. But only use half of them. Put the rest into a closet for a free shopping spree the next time around.

41 BETSY BROWN

Buy ceiling drapery track and the least expensive linen you can find and drape all the walls. White linen in a bedroom, a darker color in a dining room. It smoothes everything out and feels moody and interesting. You can even hang art from chains on top of it.

42 PENNY DRUE BAIRD

Find attractive containers for all those items on the kitchen counter. I'm thinking white modern canisters for flour, sugar, pasta, with a matching tray for oils and vinegars.



43 LEE BIERLY

Rip up the old wall-to-wall and bare the wood floors. Clean and wax them to a shine. Sit back and enjoy the new spacious feeling.

44 AMANDA NISBET

Turn a closet into a home office. Take off the door. Make a huge bulletin board for the wall. If you can, nudge in the perfect Parsons desk from westelm.com. Have fun buying file drawers and desk accessories. Add a little desk lamp for atmosphere.

45 CHRISTOPHER DRAKE

For high drama, paint the walls chocolate brown. For something fresh, Hermès orange. And for serenity, there's nothing like silvery blue. Go for a semi-gloss finish, which gives life to the color.

46 MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH

Upgrade your electronics. Nothing dates you faster than an old stereo system or a clunky TV. Get a flat-screen in a cool color to add a little edge.



47 RICK SHAVER

Purchase ready-made window treatments and add something to them, like a trimmed edge or a contrasting fabric border. I like the stainless-steel-grommeted curtains from westelm.com. I've also tea-dyed them or thrown them into a bath of Rit dye to make my own colors.

48 CARL D'AQUINO

What's the best view in your room? Rearrange your furniture in such a way that you can enjoy it. Sometimes that just means pulling a chair out of a dark corner and moving it next to a window. Suddenly, it's your favorite place to sit and relax.

49 LEE MELAHN

Don't dismiss your ceiling with a coat or two of white paint. The least you can do is tint it with a dollop or two of your wall color. Or paper it with pattern. Or make a sky of golden stars with rubber stamps and a metallic ink pad.