



Newsletter 3: New Year, New Interior. Change the Look of Your Home on a Budget.

As you wade into 2009, you're most likely attempting a resolution (or surrounded by people trying to fulfill their new year's goals). If you want an early taste of success, here's an easy task for you to achieve: update your interior design on a budget. It's not as hard as you might think.

Your home should be your sanctuary: a place where you can relax, enjoy time with friends, and celebrate the big moments in your life. Your living space should be a reflection of you. The easiest way to infuse your character into your home is to refresh your window treatments.

You don't need to be an interior designer to make a beautiful space. Here are four ways to change the look of your space on a budget.

1. Introduce color into your space.

A lot of people are afraid of bold colors, but you shouldn't be. Using strong colors (browns, reds, and greens) can make your home feel more cozy by adding depth to your rooms. Also, window treatments in bold shades can add a sense of excitement and character. To best benefit from this technique, pair curtains and shades from opposite ends of the color spectrum. For instance, pair a deep eggplant curtain with amber window shades. The contrast adds interest.

2. Textures make a big impact.

If you're a bit hesitant about colors, you can add interest to your windows by combining different textures. For instance, you can combine curtains in thick fabrics or patterns with bamboo blinds. Silk drapes juxtapose modern, casual living spaces. When you choose to utilize textures, play with similar color tones. The contrast here is in texture, not color. The best part? You can't really go wrong.

3. Add layers for depth.

Adding layers to your windows can help dress them up and create a sense of dimension. Think about adding sheer panels underneath your "dressier" drapes. Sheers allow light in and simultaneously give you some privacy. With layering, you can also change the look of your windows as the seasons change. For instance, you can take down heavy drapes in the spring to lighten the look of the room.

4. Take advantage of light.

Sometimes we forget to take advantage of “mood lighting.” You can control the feel of your rooms by the amount of natural light you allow in (or keep out). To best utilize light, try to avoid extremes. Harsh, direct light can be too much, while not enough sun will make rooms feel like a cave. Fortunately, there are new products that make light control easy. For instance, Hunter Douglas carries a variety of light diffusing window treatments (everything from shades to louvers and panels). With all the options out there, you can be sure to create a relaxing space with perfect light ambiance.

This year, I hope you achieve all your resolutions. More importantly, I hope you give yourself the living space you deserve. Remember, Lavish Interiors provides beautiful, cost-effective window treatments. So, if you want help, give me a call! Happy New Year.