

# REVOLVER April 2009

## redecorate. refresh. revolve.

When homeowners look to update their homes, they often think in terms of large-scaled, expensive projects like full kitchen or bathroom remodels. However, in these challenging economic times, more and more homeowners are looking for less expensive ways to freshen up their homes. As designers and home stagers, we're often challenged to refresh the look of a home for as little money as possible. Below are a few of the low cost design tricks that we use that can also be used to update the look of your home:

### **Change something. Anything.**

One really easy trick to make a home appear fresh and updated is to simply change something about the decor. Don't worry about how big or small the change may be. Perhaps the change is replacing a light fixture or maybe it's having an ottoman reupholstered. Whatever the change, your home will appear to gradually evolve with you. Think of home decor as an extension of your closet. Do you go out every season (or every other season) and buy a whole new wardrobe? For most people, the answer is no. So how do you tend to update your wardrobe? Most of us buy a couple of current pieces each year to supplement our wardrobe so that as we wear them, we appear more current. The same is true with decor. Change a few key pieces or accents every few years and your home will appear current and evolved. You would be surprised at how a few, small items such as throw pillows, accent rugs, vases, and bowls, can transform a room.

### **Install and/or replace door and cabinetry hardware.**

One really inexpensive way to update the look and feel of your home is to replace dated cabinetry and door hardware with ones that have a more current style and finish. As most things, the cost to replace hardware varies with tastes and styles. Two great resources for inexpensive hardware are [www.myknobs.com](http://www.myknobs.com) and Ikea ([www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)).

### **Rearrange, reframe, and/or rotate your art.**

You can quickly freshen up your decor by rearranging, replacing, or reframing the art in your home. Take the mirror from over the living room mantle and hang it in the entryway. Take the Picasso print out of the dining room and hang it in the bathroom. Go ahead and finally put a frame on that unframed canvas or change out the framing on that mid-century piece you found at the local flea market. Collect three or four of your children's favorite drawings, frame them, and hang them prominently in the hallway. Create an installation by grouping several, similarly framed pieces together. A couple of great resources for inexpensive art are [www.20x200.com](http://www.20x200.com) and [www.artaisance.com](http://www.artaisance.com).

### **Edit and rearrange furniture.**

Like art, furniture too can be refreshed and updated by simply changing its orientation and placement. A small bench in the bedroom can find great use in the entry. A living room loveseat may also be quite appropriate for an office or even at the foot of a bed. Play with configurations and purpose and you too will find that simply changing the orientation of your furniture can dramatically alter the mood, feel, and energy of a room.

### **Replace and/or update light switches, outlets, and switch plates.**

One fixture of a home that will quickly date its decor are the outlets, switches, and faceplates - particularly if the current ones are dirty and worn. Go down to your local hardware store and purchase a multipack of faceplates, switches, and outlets and replace all of your worn ones with new units. Also, be sure to put all of the lights on dimmers. An updated home is one that can set a variety of moods and dimmers will definitely help you accomplish that.

### **Add or rotate accent lighting.**

Many people overlook the importance of accent lighting for a room. It is very likely that you too have a room or rooms in your home that could use an extra lamp or accent light to increase its versatility. An office can now better function as a reading nook, a living room now becomes a swank lounge, the dining room a romantic bistro all with the proper mood lighting. Plant lights, picture lights, table, and floor lamps are all great products that can be used to add great accent lighting to any room.

For more money saving, innovative ideas, please check out our website at [www.revolveinteriordesigns.com](http://www.revolveinteriordesigns.com)