

The Art of Redesign

5 Simple Steps to No-cost Redecorating

INTRODUCTION

With the increase in emphasis on homes, we are bombarded with messages telling us that what we have isn't good enough. We need to buy different, new and up-to-date. In magazines we are told we need to buy new furniture, new accessories, and new window treatments. Television shows make us believe we have to do entire renovations in order to love our homes. Advertisements everywhere promote buying new in order to have a home of which we can be proud.

So we go shopping. And we buy new furniture at vast expense; we buy new lamps, new artwork, and new accessories. And at the end of all that spending, we still don't love our homes. Something still isn't right.

The reason? We haven't paid attention to the basics of what makes a home beautiful. Our real objective is to give ourselves a warm, inviting home that meets our needs and the needs of the other people who live there. And here's a novel thought: we don't need to buy anything new.

Creating a home you love is not about decorating. It's about creating a space that works for you and highlighting the possessions that you love. The focus is on you and the other people who live in the home and how you would like to use your space. It's all about what would make it special for you, not what would look good in a decorating magazine.

In this book I will walk you through the basic steps to create a home you love. I will teach you the techniques I have learned as a professional redesigner, and I will teach you a system of layering furniture, art, and accessories to create beauty wherever the eye looks. You will learn to use your furnishings so your home works for the people who live there. You will learn to create balance and flow in your rooms. You will learn the power of hanging art to work with the furniture, and you will learn to accessorize to enhance the art and the furnishings.

Redesign is the art of making over your home using your existing furnishings. When I began my career as a redesigner, I thought it was

about making people's homes pretty. The concept of creating something beautiful from what people already owned was intriguing to me.

What came as a huge shock to me when I started redesigning homes for people was the enormous emotional impact that my redesigns had on my clients.

One woman, a couple months after the redesign, said, "I can't tell you how it's changed my life. I even care what I wear now."

Denise, a single mother, confided to me that she hadn't wanted to get out of bed in the morning for two years. After the redesign, she jumped out of bed with excitement. Moreover, her teenage children were keeping the house clean because they wanted to keep the feeling I had created.

"The changes you brought about in our house have everyone who comes in here impressed. It's so much cozier and friendly and I love the front room especially. The best part is that the kids and I are keeping it cleaner now that we like it . . . For once I have a list of things I'd like to buy that has some purpose ... you have a real talent and this job will bring so many people happiness."

—Denise Gibson, Teacher, Port Moody, BC

I was even more amazed at the reaction of younger people. They always tell you exactly what they think. One client's six-year-old boy walked into the room, looked at his parents, and said, "Don't change it back!" And his ten-year-old sister said, "It's like walking into a picture."

A typical teenage boy walked into the family room we'd redesigned and said, "The energy is different in here." His mother said she didn't even think he'd notice anything, never mind the energy in the room.

Two young boys came home and were bouncing off the walls with excitement after we'd done the redesign. "Mom, come here! Dad, look at this!"

In another home, a five-year-old girl started to cry when she was told we hadn't been hired to redesign her bedroom. She wanted her bedroom to be as wonderful as the rest of the home.

People would come home to their 'new' house and jump up and down in glee, or tears would well up in their eyes as they took in the beautiful space created with their own possessions. I watched their bodies relax as they felt the peace in their 'new' home envelop them.

At first I thought they just liked how their home looked. But over time I realized that it had less to do with how the home looked and more to do with how it felt. The feelings of balance, harmony, and peace that people felt when they walked into their warm, inviting space released enormous joy and serenity.

What I gradually came to realize was that a redesigned home took them to that place every time they walked through their front door. And this is what redesigning your home will do for you.

Through this book, you will come to shape a home that you love. You really will.

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