



## Decorating for less!

by Ellinor Ellefson

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In today's tough economy, everybody is looking for ways to cut costs. Less movies and dinners out also mean that we are spending more time at home. Now, it becomes more important than ever, that our home is a pleasant place to be. However, if money is tight, how do you get your home to be that relaxing, comfortable space we all need? I would like to share with you my **10 best design fixes**, that can give your home a whole new look without spending much!

### 1. Paint

There is nothing like paint to update your house fast and for very little money! Giving your walls a fresh coat of paint in a hue that you love and that works with the space, is the most low-cost, dazzling makeover you can do to a room!



*Before*



*After*

## 2. More paint

If you are tired of your old kitchen or bathroom, but can't afford new cabinets – paint them! It is amazing how a coat of paint on the cabinets freshens up the entire space. And don't just stick to white; there are a million of other color options out there: dark grey, sage green, red...

When painting cabinets, it is crucial that it is done right. I usually recommend hiring a professional painter for this. However, if you want to do it on your own, make sure you first sand the doors, lightly wash them, paint with a primer, and then usually apply two coats of paint. For longer durability, finish with a coat of polyurethane.



*Before*



*After*

## 3. And even more paint!

To update your décor for almost no money at all, paint accessories and lampshades. Tired white lampshades can get new life with a coat of paint (buy fabric paint in a spray bottle from a craft store). Group accessories, like five different sized bowls, and spray paint them all in the same color. Old picture frames of different finishes can all be spray-painted the same color for a unified and updated look.

## 4. Moving furniture

Make the most of what you have, then fill in the blanks. Simply rearranging the furniture - floating it away from the walls, or turning it on the diagonal - can transform a tired room. Moving a piece of furniture from one room to another can improve the look of both. Experiment with what's on hand before you go shopping for replacements.

## 5. Accessories

Tired furniture gets new life by adding new pillows and accessories. Think of accessories as makeup or jewelry – this is what gives a room that finishing touch and what makes it go from plain to dazzling. Shop for inexpensive finds at stores like Target, JC Penney, and sometimes even at your local dollar store.



*Before*



*After*

## 6. Lighting

Many people live with the same lighting the house came with when they first bought it. In most cases, that lighting is not the best. Not only are many of the fixtures not very attractive, they generally also don't offer much of ambient light. The overhead fixtures are great for some things: as for when the kids are doing their homework, or dad working out in the garage. But, for a home to feel welcoming and cozy, plenty of different lighting options are needed. An inexpensive quick way to cozier lighting is to put dimmer switches on all overhead fixtures. This way you can adjust the light to what mood you want. Then, make sure you have plenty of floor and table lamps, these are what really will create a comfortable mood in your home.



No....



Yes!

## 7. Art

Great art can truly transform a space, and is something that can easily be changed if you get tired of it. Art does not have to be expensive to be great though; consider framing posters, or buy canvas transfers for the look of original art for a lot less. You can also be creative and frame a beautiful piece of fabric, turn a map into a set of pictures with identical frames, or frame your kids best artwork.



## 8. Edit

For an absolutely no-cost way of updating a room – edit what you have, and remove what you don't love. Most people are somewhat "home-blind", and keep living with things they don't even like, year after year. Do one room at a time, and remove everything that you don't like. Keep only the things that you love and use.

## 9. Flowers

Put in some fresh flowers in your house at least a few times a month. When you bring them home from the store, make sure to arrange them in a beautiful way, and cut the stems to fit the vase. Some flower shops, like The Flower Shoppe, Cactus Flowers and Phoenix Flower Shops, have ½ off all cut flowers on Fridays! Also, look in your own backyard, there is usually something there that you can use, such as some branches of citrus leaves, or fill a vase with bougainvillea.



## 10. Clean the house and wash the windows

Cleaning the house from top to toe and washing the windows inside and out will make your home look a lot better, and you will feel a lot better too, once it is all done! I promise!

Have fun decorating for less! If you need help, don't hesitate to call me! I'd be happy to help you get started. As well as working on large projects such as entire remodels, I also do 2-hour consultations during which we can select new colors, discuss furniture placements, and a lot more. You will be amazed at how much can get accomplished in only two hours! As an interior designer, I know how important our close surroundings are for our wellbeing. When our home is organized, comfortable, and a good place to be, we get more energy for other things in life. Give this gift to yourself!

*Sincerely,*

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Elle Interiors

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*Ellinor Ellefson, Allied member ASID, of Elle Interiors, specializes in residential interior design and small commercial spaces. She believes that great spaces are for everyone, and that you don't have to sacrifice style and good looks in order to stick to a budget. Ellinor Ellefson offers a **free one-hour consultation** to all new clients; call her today at **602-751-1178** or visit her website at **www.elleinteriorsaz.com**.*

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