

Five Fast DECORATING FIXES

By Sandy Anchondo

Home improvement projects can often feel overwhelming. In the case of interior decorating it can feel downright daunting. Applying the following fixes will help you decrease the panic and confusion associated with making design changes. Good design starts with a clear vision. Analyze your space and decide what you would like it to be and stay focused on that goal. Arm yourself with a tape measure and some furniture glides and you are ready to begin.

Fix No. 1 – Room Not Functional

Ask yourself what the purpose is for your space. Is it television viewing, reading and entertaining? Once you have identified the function of the space, take a look at the items in the room. Do they relate to that function? If not, these items should be removed or disguised, if removal is not feasible. Next identify the focal point of the room. Fireplaces, picture window, large piece of artwork are all examples of focal points. Now you have the building blocks in place to create an environment that carries out the purpose of your room.

Fix No. 2 – Furniture not working

For most homeowners it is easy to identify when something is “wrong” with a room. The challenge is figuring out what that something is. Many times the culprit is incorrect furniture placement, not the wrong furniture. Furniture arrangement plays a huge part in creating proper balance in your space. The scale of that furniture can affect the balance as well. When placing furniture it is best to start with the largest piece first. Usually this piece of furniture will play off the focal point of your room. One common mistake to avoid is placing all the furniture against the walls. When setting up the furniture consider traffic flow patterns so you can avoid blocking TV viewing, for example. Also it is a good idea to measure your furniture first so you know if a piece will fit where you want to position it.

Fix No. 3 – See the Light

The best-laid furniture plan falls flat when the area is not

properly illuminated. Lighting fixtures should be located in at least three areas of your space to be effective. This is commonly referred to as the lighting triangle. Lighting is responsible for setting the mood of your space. By incorporating different types of lighting -- task (for reading), ambient (usually overhead) and accent (wall sconces) -- you will successfully reflect your vision for the space.

Fix No. 4 – Clear the Clutter

Most homeowners become desensitized to the clutter in their space. Going back to Fix No. 1, once the function of the room is clear, purging the clutter becomes almost automatic. One word of caution -- sometimes decorative collections are mislabeled as clutter simply because they are scattered all over the room. Displaying your collections together provides dramatic decorative impact. If a unique collection is hidden away in your closet, it may be the perfect room accessory. Just remember, you can have too much of a good thing.

Fix No. 5 – The Art of Hanging Artwork

Last but not least is the challenging task of displaying artwork. Hanging artwork and accessorizing your space are the final components of a successful room design. Artwork truly punctuates a room when displayed correctly. Take your





cues from the furniture placement, other fixtures, and the room's architectural details. Position artwork so that it relates to other items in the space rather than floating alone on the wall. Hang artwork at eye level for best viewing. Resist the urge to hang pictures too high. Grouping art together is an effective way to accessorize a large blank wall.

Need help applying these fixes? Call your local certified Interior Redesigner. Interior Redesigners provide one-day room makeovers and other design services. A redesigner can make over your space in just one afternoon, using what you already own. For an initial consultation call Re-Style Interiors at: 949-635-9810. ■

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that the rooms in your
home are conspiring
against you?



After



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puzzled about where to hang
your artwork, or maybe you
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