Get a decorator look without the expense

(AP) — Decorating a home costs so much these days. If only a decoration would explain to the do-it-your-selfer where it is safe out corners and where it is in.

With this in mind, we asked decorating authority Mary Gilliant for some hints on how to economize and still create an attractive home.

"It's very important that framework of a room be right," says Gilliant, whose books include "Decorating on the Cheap." By framework, she means walls, floor, ceiling and windows.

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Walls, she says, are among a room's most noticeable points, so start with good paint. Cheap paint will flake off and you'll have to redo the job, so you won't save in the long run.

ta for another dark color) will look more elegant, especially if you have white woodway.

One of the more expensive pain jobs these days involves applying a faux finish, such as plazing, trompe foul or ragging, Gilliait says to get the look without the expense, hang one of the newer faux finish willcoverings and then apply a coat of semigloss polyurethane with roller or brush. This will make it look more like an expensive painted finish and will be easier to clean.

ANOTHER IDEA for walls is to use borders to finish off the room. Choose a narrow border for just above the baschoard. Use borders to imitate a dado or chair rail — which adds architectural character. A real dado or chair rail can be added with ready-made modding. Paint walls above the line and apply wallcover-

ing below it.
Saving money by cutting corners on quality is false economy, according to falliatt, especially where conjunctive converse and chairs and carpeting to distribute and chairs and carpeting to the converse and chairs and carpeting form the converse and chairs and carpeting form the converse good quality.

"Put the good carpet where it will get the bardest use—in hallways and foyers," she says, but in a bedroom, where there's much less wear, choose a lesser quality if necessary Also, shop the saltes.

choose a lesser quality if necessary.
Also, shop the sales.
You can also save by choosing a less expensive flour covering such as

matting or rag rugs, by leaving the floors hare or by painting them.

When shopping for dining room forniture, you can save money on a table, which is usually covered with a cloth anyway, but reward yourself and your guests with comfortable chairs, says dilliant.

With window treatments, remember that draperies should be lined to look good — an expensive proposition on matter the type of fabric. So if you want to save money, use a less expensive treatment such as match-suck blinds or minibilidad. To leave these these window coverings some distinction, spray paint a design on

the matchsticks or paint them an un-usual color to coordinate with your

THOSE WITH woodworking skills, or who have access to someone with the skills, can frame windows with 2-by-4 lumber and baild a window seat for a custom look that's inex-

sear for a custom look that's meapensive.
Some Gilliatt quick tips to make
any room look better:

Place interesting bouse plants
inte room.

Buy several inexpensive
uplights and place them behind the
plants and furniture. "This will

make any room look enormously more expensive," she says.

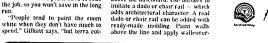
**Diguisse or minimize threadba Diguisse or minimize threadba Diguisse or minimize threadba Diguisse or minimize threadba Diguisse or minimize threaddof fabric, such as a shawl, draped
scross the seat back.

**Paint all foor in a checkerboard
pattern using two of your favorite
colors already in the room.

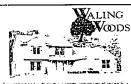
**Paint furniture you find in sectood-hand stores bright colors. You
can use a mix of colors on the same
piece or paint side chairs each a different color.

**Choose a neutral (Gilllatt

Choose a neutral (Gilliatt prefers white) and make the entire room different shades of that color.

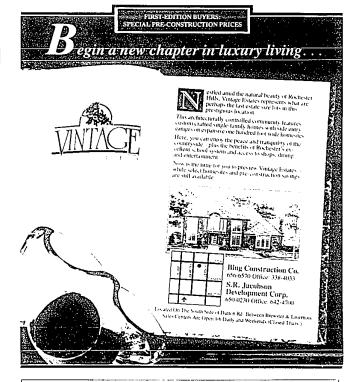


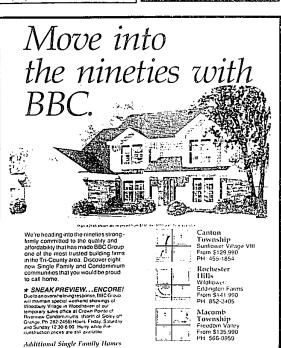




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