

## INTERIOR MOTIVES

# Change the look of your home without redesigning



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LEVY

You aren't trying to redesign your home. You aren't about to move out of your present environment. You do want a newer look, and you have X number of dollars to execute a change. This will come under the title of "Room(s) for Improvement."

Does your entrance hall say anything to a guest? It is the introduction to your home and a vital place to improve your surroundings.

If there is a small piece of wall to install an elegant mirror with a console beneath, take advantage of it. The console might have one drawer in which you can hide keys or extra gloves. There will be another improvement if you hang a significant lighting fixture or even mount wall sconces, whether electrified or candleabra-style.

Improve your living area without a mega change. Slipcovers are the most economical procedure. If you have lived with an old-fashioned print or stripe on your sofa, why not change it? How dressy do you want to be? You might select a paisley weave. Cover the sofa and two unmatched chairs in the one design.

Now add to that several one-color textures on your other pieces. One new and important table will make an enormous change for the better. It could be a sensational large coffee table. You just improved your room immeasurably.

Accessories play their role in elevating the change. If you only own small and unimportant bits and pieces, at best group them together. But be certain you add one "drop dead" and large object. It could be a stunning sculpture placed judiciously on the coffee table. That will make a statement.

### Dining area

Other room(s) for improvement must include the dining area. I advise you not to buy a matched suite. Let us embrace a more modern venue. The table could be of burl walnut, which opens to accommodate table leaves. The chairs might be your own, refinished in black or another color lacquer, and added to this mix. Another economy.

Be selective, always using the best of your possessions, and discarding that which is less desirable.

If your buffet is dated, discard it. Buy a slab of gorgeously grained marble and mount it on brass brackets, attached to the wall. You can even double the shelving, this time using 1/2-inch glass,

setting the second shelf considerably lower to create a double console.

A vitrine cabinet would be an unparalleled way to display an extraordinary set of china. Plates set on easels form a background for cups and saucers, sugar and creamer, coffee and teapots. A few tasteful figurines mixed with the china should be captivating.

A chest of drawers is essential to accommodate linens and cutlery. If the lines of a chest you own are acceptable it could be painted, or refinished by a competent professional. You now have a combination of walnut, glass, brass, black lacquer, marble, and paint or wood.

Never be dull. Intermix accessories and achieve an eclectic aura of great interest. Include a sensational fresh floral centerpiece and a number of handsome brass candlesticks.

### Bedroom

There is much to be accomplished in a bedroom. I am assuming you own a matched bedroom suite, one of my designer's peeves. Why, oh why, does John Q. Public think he is obligated to buy it all? The easy way out! The suite is priced to encourage such a buy. However, if you are in a furniture store and you make it clear to the salesperson you

cannot be coerced, he or she will be more thoughtful of your tastes.

Select a suitable headboard at the outset. Maple? Cherry? Colonial or Early American in character? You have made a decision.

Now find nightstands. Must they be a pair? Not obligatory, but again the easiest way out. Try to have the nightstands commodious. One might be a living room table, the other a small chest, or they could be made of wicker. The two should be the same height, however, so the lamps won't be out of balance.

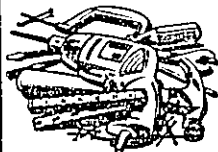
Can you afford new lamps? Indulge yourself. Again, they needn't be a pair.

An armoire is a wonderful possibility for housing a television set opposite the bed. It also will have additional drawers or shelves to house other possessions.

You must include other storage units, preferably a dresser topped by a non-matched mirror.

Naomi Stone Levy, a Franklin resident, is an interior designer and a former secretary of the American Society of Interior Designers. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1897. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

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