

FEBRUARY 2009

House Beautiful

101 DESIGNERS...

101 MAKEOVERS!

QUICK CHANGES
YOU CAN DO NOW



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50 T. KELLER DONOVAN
I got rid of all the mismatched rugs in my house and put down round jute rugs from westelm.com—eight feet in diameter. They throw you a curve and make the room feel lighter.

51 THOMAS O'BRIEN
I've always collected textiles, and you can make a fast, easy change with bedding, towels, and table linens to create a different mood. Switch things out seasonally, or for a special event, or whenever you want to play with a certain color or pattern.

52 MALCOLM JAMES KUTNER
In winter, I bring out cashmere blankets, fur throws, and my quilted bedspread from Leontine Linens. In summer, out come the monogrammed seersucker and cotton piqué coverlets. I'm also a sucker for Léron hand towels.

53 ANN WOLF
Collect small succulents and pot them in an assortment of vintage ceramics. Line them up on a sunny windowsill. Forget to water them, and watch them grow.



54 KATHRYN M. IRELAND
Add a splash of red to your room. It could be a lampshade, a cushion, a carpet with some red in the pattern. Red is so uplifting.

55 MICHAEL RICHMAN
Make a window seat for a favorite window. Build a plywood box and paint it. Add a cushion and pillows, and you'll have a new spot to curl up and read *House Beautiful*.

56 SCOTT SALVATOR
Paint the inside of your lampshades a very pale pink. This will combat the cool light from those green fluorescent corkscrew bulbs.

57 WHITNEY STEWART
No matter what you think, there's always room to add a bench—in front of the fireplace, in front of the sofa (instead of that old coffee table), in front of a club chair so you can put your feet up, at the foot of your bed.



58 ALISON SPEAR
Buy lampshades in unusual shapes. Have them made out of fabric that will cast a glow. I also love the look and texture of brown string shades from justshadesny.com. Change the color of the light by buying bulbs in amber or pink.

59 RAYMOND WAITES
Have a party where every guest is asked to bring a plant of one color—say, purple—for an instant garden with a little story of friendship behind each plant.

60 RUTHIE SOMMERS
Wallpaper a closet. A linen closet only needs a couple of rolls and you will feel sheer joy every time you open it.



61 HODERICK SHADE
Use fewer pieces of art, but bigger in scale. These could even be oversize posters.

62 JOE NYE
Clean your house. And I mean really clean it. Polish silver, wash windows, wipe down the light bulbs in your lamps, wipe down the walls. Everything will gleam and glisten. The effect will be cathartic and make you feel like you have accomplished something.

63 BARBARA WESTBROOK
I love black and white photography, and often mix my own photos in with a known artist's work. I even added black linen pillows to my sofa to echo the photography and create a more graphic look.

64 SCOTT SANDERS
Put a striped rug over your solid-color carpet to create a new feeling in any room.

65 ELDON WONG
Reorganize your accessories into themes—multiples make a better statement than single objects—and cluster them on a tray on a foyer table or a side table. Introduce a reflective object—a mirror, silver, mercury glass—into any grouping to add some light.

66 PETER DUNHAM
Wallpaper your front entry with a bold paper. It creates a strong first impression and makes it seem like you have done a total makeover.

67 RANDALL BEALE
Paint all the terra-cotta pots on your balcony or terrace with a polyurethane stain in high-gloss black or brown. They'll look like Chinese porcelain by the time you're finished.

68 KATHRYN SCOTT
Treat yourself to throw pillows made of silk velvet. Since they're expensive, choose a silk damask in the same color for the backside. Don't forget to use an invisible zipper.

69 BIRCH COFFEY
Create your own kitchen island. Buy one of those stainless-steel wire mesh trolleys by Metro shelving and get a big slab of stone, or butcher block, to put on top.



70 KELLY VAN PATTER
Something as simple as an oddly shaped tree branch found on a hike could easily become a unique sculptural centerpiece, or use it as part of an assemblage with other found objects.

71 MARSHALL WATSON
Upholster an ordinary hollow-core door in leather, or one of the new vinyls that look like leather. If you have the patience, add nailheads in a geometric pattern.

72 ANGIE HRANOWSKY
Organize and style your bookshelves. Group books by subject or even color. Stand some upright, and then stack some horizontally to break the monotony. Mix in favorite pieces of pottery, collectibles, shells or family photos.

73 PAUL VINCENT WISEMAN
People have wonderful art books, but they rarely look at them. So I bought a bookstand, set out one of my favorites, and now when I walk by I see a beautiful photograph. Turn the pages daily.

74 KENDALL WILKINSON
Add a glass top to a table for a more sophisticated look. You can put fabric or wallpaper underneath, or even paint the underside of the glass to give it a little more jazz.

75 NATHAN TURNER
Pick a predominant color from your room and paint the ceiling. It can be done in less than a day and a can of paint is so cheap!



76 ORLANDO DIAZ-AZCUY
Art doesn't have to be a huge investment. Cut out 20 pages from a favorite book. Buy 20 inexpensive frames and place them side by side in rows on a wall. Repetition is powerful.

77 FRANK ROOP
If I have a corner that's kind of dead, I'll make a rectangular pedestal out of plywood and lacquer it with high-gloss white paint. Anything you put on it, from a glass bowl to a concrete urn, suddenly becomes important. It's like a little museum installation.

78 DARREN HENAU
Send that dowdy wooden table you inherited from Aunt Sadie to Maaco and ask them to do a high-gloss spray automobile finish in a great color, say BMW Racing Green 1994.