

Existing items find new places

Professional redeigner saves clients money

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Yearning for a fresh new look for a tired old room, but lacking the money to make it happen? According to Maria Lybrand of Lybrand Redesign in Key West, the chances are good that you've already got nearly everything necessary to bring a breath of fresh air and style to any room.

DECORATING

Lybrand, a certified interior redesign specialist and a certified staging specialist, says she helps people save money by using their existing furnishings to create the home of their dreams. She is also a Realtor at Exit Realty Old Island Key West, and as a staging specialist she works with home sellers to present their property to potential buyers in the best light possible to increase the chance of a quick and more lucrative sale.

The redesign concept is featured on HGTV network's "Decorating Cents," a show in

which designers carry out an entire room makeover for under \$500 on each episode. By using the homeowner's existing furnishings and adding inexpensive accessories, the designers show how it is possible to create a fashionable look on a tight budget.

Seeing a redesign on television inspired Norma Gilmore to hire Lybrand for a living/dining room makeover in her Key West home. Gilmore said she was amazed with the results.

"I love the openness she brought into the room," Gilmore said. "When you live with something all the time,



These before-and-after shots demonstrate a professional redesign by Maria Lybrand.

after a while you just don't see it anymore. She helped me look at my house through different eyes and gave me a fresh perspective."

Gilmore said Lybrand spent one day rearranging furniture and moving accessories from one room to another until they achieved what Gilmore called "a unified look."

"She spiced it up, and I only had to buy two new throws — that was all," Gilmore said. "It was well worth what we paid [for the makeover]."

No sentiment lost

Lybrand says the redesign approach to home decorating is a great alternative for two reasons.

"The biggest factor is the money factor. Redecorating can get very expensive if you have to buy everything new,"

Lybrand said. "The second factor is the sentimental attachment that people have to their possessions. A lot of times they don't want to give things up, even if they think it won't fit into their new design theme. With redesign, they don't have to."

For instance, Lybrand says she is working with a client in Islamorada who wants a tropical design theme. But the house is full of dark wooden antique furniture, and although she loves the heirloom pieces, the client was certain they would need to be replaced because they don't fit the common conception of island style.

Lybrand said she convinced the client that she could keep the antiques she loves and still achieve the fresh look she wants. By introducing a smattering of wicker or rattan and some other inexpensive tropical



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