

## Use what you have

### REDESIGN / From 25

"Accent pillows that were in a bedroom can be moved to the living room," Lybrand said. "Pillows and throws change the whole look of big ticket items like a sofa. In fact, in one redesign I did, the only thing we bought was a throw."

◆ Hang an inexpensive mirror on a wall. "Mirrors make a room look larger," Lybrand explained. "They open up the room and make it brighter. Think about where to hang it to reflect natural light the best."

◆ Bring a bit of the outdoors inside. Lybrand says plants soften a room and create visual interest without being obtrusive, but she issued the following caveat: don't overdo it.

"Foliage and greenery create warmth, but you don't need much," she said. "Live plants are best, but even people who usually kill plants should get a nice artificial or two. Place them up high on a hutch or cabinet. It draws the eye up and around the room."

◆ Candles add instant drama and romance to a room. "Especially when a house is for sale, we'll light candles during

the open house," Lybrand said. "It sets a mood; it's soothing. And candles are cheap so you can change the color scheme easily."

◆ Ask a friend (or a certified redesign specialist) for help and advice. "Sometimes it takes an outside person to help make sense of it all," Lybrand said. "A fresh perspective can make all the difference."

Lybrand said she loves redesign because the result is always a reflection of the homeowner's personality.

"When you use existing furnishings in a fresh way, you always end up with a sense of your personal style," Lybrand explained. "You create a style that's more your own rather than what the industry says you should have.

"And you save money, too."

### To learn more

To contact Maria Lybrand of Lybrand Redesign, call 292-2682 or 561-351-4191 or visit [www.lybrandredesign.com](http://www.lybrandredesign.com). In addition to redesign and staging, she also assists in moves, organizing, and personal shopping.

Visit [www.weredesign.com](http://www.weredesign.com) for a list of professionals.

## Show your true colors

### COLOR / From 9

that it enhances the room and your furniture. A large blank wall could have one major piece on it or you can hang several pieces gallery style if you have a collection to display. Begin the grouping at eye level and work outward, the largest and most dominant pieces should be focal points and positioned first.

The work should be spaced pleasingly apart and not lined up in a row unless the sizes and frames are the same. The placement of groupings can be symmetrical, but an asymmetrical arrangement can produce a visual impact. It's really a matter of whether you want a formal look or something less structured.

### Outside the box

Collectables like jewelry, fishing flies and lures, souvenirs, small items and antiques can be framed up in shadow boxes to

hang on the wall as artwork, however, your other favorite items can add personality, and interest to your walls.

Hanging items like straw hats, purses, plates, rugs, weavings, musical instruments, rods, reels and boat oars in groupings as personalized wall hangings helps keep a variety of shapes and angles in view so your walls aren't quite so "square."

Or forgo the frame completely with a paintbrush and paint right on the wall creating murals, temp faux, florals and foliage, landscapes and seascapes to bring the outside in. Those not feeling so confident in their artistic ability can inquire with local artists, many of which do this type of work. Check with your local galleries to get inspired.

*Morna Strengholt is an Upper Keys artist. She can be reached at [mornasart@yahoo.com](mailto:mornasart@yahoo.com).*

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