

# The Art of Redesign

by Dana J. Smithers

## REDESIGN GIVES YOU A WHOLE NEW LOOK

This is where the concept of 'Redesign' comes in. Redesign simply put is making the most out of your existing furniture, art work, rugs, carpets, window coverings, lighting and accessories. You do not need to spend any extra money to create a new, beautiful space if you do not want to.

However, once the redesign is complete you will be seeing your home in a whole new light. Many redesigners are also interior designers or decorators and will provide you with design and decorating ideas once the redesign is complete. They may suggest ideas such as: new colourways with new paint, changing window coverings, cushions, furniture that fits with the new space, new rugs and/or carpet, different lighting that will reflect the newly-redesigned look - but the choice is yours!

## BRINGING HARMONY AND ORDER INTO YOUR EXISTING HOME

The goal of redesign is the same whether you rent, own or intend to buy or sell a home for the first or last time. Your home is your haven and should represent your personal lifestyle and priorities. You should feel relaxed the minute you walk in. The feeling should be harmonious, orderly and comforting. Your eye should flow from room to room with ease. Does it?

## CONSULTATION FIRST

When you initially contact a professional redesigner, s/he will come out and do a consultation with you. S/he will walk through your home looking at all of your treasures assessing what might look better in another room looking at everything with a professional, objective eye. Questions will be asked such as: What do you love about this room? What doesn't work for you? What do you want to do in this room? The redesigner will determine with the client what can be moved and what can't be moved. Interestingly enough, men tend to like most things just the way they are...

**Redesign is not a new concept**, women have been doing it for years but it has recently become extremely popular for a number of reasons:

- Current turbulent economic times leave us skeptical of spending too much right now
- Baby boomers are downsizing and moving - what to keep, throw out, give away?
- Households are blending - who gets to keep what?
- Younger adults are inheriting furnishings and don't know what to do with them
- We are in a society who thinks twice now about just throwing something out only to have to replace it at double or triple it's original cost.
- Lifestyles are changing more rapidly than previous times - we want new looks more often now

## One-Day Home Makeovers Bring New Life to Old Looks

### THEN THE ONE-DAY MAKEOVER

A redesigner and her partner will show up at your door to complete the one-day makeover. Clients leave for the day and come back totally delighted at all the changes that have been made.

The most commonly heard comments are: "I never would have thought of doing that!. We just love it! You made a focal point of my most favourite picture."

The redesigners are hard at work for the day, typically doing two room makeovers. The art of redesign involves using a process that starts with stripping a room bare and working with a blank canvas. Principles of redesign suggest starting with the largest objects first, working from top to bottom. Determining the focal point of each room is key to good redesign. Generally clients have a colour scheme and a theme already in their home - they just may not recognize it. A good eye can start pulling in colour and groupings that work harmoniously together. Architectural features are critical to good redesign, as is good lighting always looking for the optimum triangle solution. Proper placement of fine art adds the finishing touch with accessories being the last items to be placed. And while accessories are the last items to be placed - they are like the icing on the cake - delicious and inviting, and typically the real 'heart treasures' of the home.

Before



### THE 'BEFORE & AFTER' PICTURES

The two sets of 'Before & After' pictures are examples of typical homes that redesigners transform. The first set of pictures ...did not require any extra purchases to be made at this time. We simply refocused on what was important in each room. We moved furniture out of both rooms and replaced it with furniture from other rooms.

The second set of 'before & after' pictures required some purchases which the homeowners were happy to make to really make the bedroom inviting for them. The rug was hung based on a Feng Shui principle of having a soft covering behind the head. All new bedding was custom made, the right antique wood rod and pole were purchased, an older piece of furniture was painted, a new piece of furniture was purchased, new pictures and several accessories were bought that added just the right touch.

So don't despair - there is an answer to your uninviting home right now. Consider a consultation with a redesigner - it will be well worth your while.

*Dana Smithers is a professional redesigner with an interior decorating background. She can be reached at 604-836-7174 or check out her website at [sunonmybackredesigns.com](http://sunonmybackredesigns.com).*

After

