

Decorator's Notebook

Sprucing Up Tired Spaces

(NAPSA)—Any time of year can be a good time to spruce up your home. Try new colors, new styles and even a few new pieces to breathe life and energy into tired old spaces.

For instance, something as simple as rearranging your furniture can make a big difference in a room. Separate pairs, angle sofas and beds, move things away from walls and establish new conversational groupings. The decorators of INTERIORS by Decorating Den also suggest using pieces from other rooms in your house and letting go of things that no longer appeal to you. They offer these additional tips:

- **Lighten The Atmosphere**—Clearing your rooms of excessive clutter and collections, as well as items such as heavy draperies and dark area rugs, will lighten the room's atmosphere. It will also make the room easier to clean and maintain.

- **Freshen Up The Fireplace**—When fireplaces are no longer in use but remain the focal point in the room, cover up the vacant opening with a beautiful container generously filled with bunches of tall, carefree faux greenery, such as magnolia leaves, laurel branches or palm fronds.

- **Brighten Up Your Color Scheme**—Replace deep jewel tones with softer brighter colors. Try working in a lighter neutral palette, or captivating colors such as new leaf green, sparkling aqua, or sunny coral. The good news is that you can incorporate fresh color without getting rid of everything you own. Just read on.



Fresh Look—Rearranging furniture can breathe new life into a room.

- **Use Cover-ups**—Disguise formal and dark upholstery with light-colored, cotton or linen custom-made slipcovers. You can also use the cover-ups on wood dining chairs, headboards and tables. For a renewed look in your bedrooms, simply replace heavy duvets and spreads with lightweight coverlets.

- **Introduce A Fresh Pattern**—Bright floral prints fit all seasons beautifully, but other smart fabric choices are polka dots, bold stripes, botanicals and leafy patterns.

- **Add Something New**—Adding a new lamp, rug, painting or piece of furniture will rejuvenate a room in the same way a new outfit can lift your spirits.

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