

Making your home a castle

Continued from Page 27

Show your true colors

If you own a home or have a landlord who doesn't mind if you change the color scheme of your living space, a gallon of paint doesn't cost much and can make a dynamic difference.



Garcia says kitchens are one area where a fresh coat

of paint can make a huge difference, especially in older homes.

He points out that vibrant colors are acceptable today, so don't be afraid to go out on a limb and try something a little out of the ordinary. If you don't want to paint the entire room, you can add color to kitchen cabinets and/or trim in other rooms.

Light up your life

One of the most popular trends in interior design is low-wattage lighting, and Garcia's store offers a tremendous selection of both track lighting and lamps that can give a room an entirely new ambiance. The trick is finding a style that not only highlights the existing space but also adds color and mood.

Thousands of different lamp styles are on the market, and Garcia encourages his customers to select something that will make an impact in a room. Shop around, and let your creativity drive your purchase. (Low-wattage lighting also will help you cope with recent increases in electricity rates.)

Accessorize, accessorize, accessorize

Most people recognize what a few accessories can mean to a wardrobe, but often they forget how little things can make a huge difference in the interior of their home. A few pillows and/or a throw can make a simple chair look like something out of the finest

home furnishing magazine.

And while you're at it, add your own piece of creativity to that pillow. In his store, Garcia sells a simple pillow with a piece of fabric in the middle accented by a small brass bell, giving it a one-of-a-kind look. Don't be afraid to sew on some funky buttons or add some bright and brilliant fabric to give your pillows a personalized look.

For the kitchen, a trip to the hardware store can mean some unique new handles and hinges that will give your cupboards an entirely new look. Instead of replacing one long handle, Garcia suggests, you can use two smaller ones of different sizes, thus dealing with the problem of having two screw holes.

Another simple, easy and inexpensive way to accessorize is having a piece of artwork mounted in a classy frame or, better yet, getting creative yourself by purchasing a frame and adding your own touch. A dab of paint, a few different craft pieces and a simple photograph can add up to a true eye-grabber for your home.

Another kitchen tip Garcia offers is replacing the wooden panels in cupboard doors with glass. Suddenly, you have an whole new array of display cases.

In both the kitchen and bathroom, adding some new tile or Formica is quite simple, and if you really want to go out on a limb, you even can design the style and colors you want. Tile not only adds both design and color aesthetics in the kitchen and bathroom but also makes a simple entry seem elegant.

While you're at it, don't forget one of the simplest ways to add color and life to your bedroom: Throw out that old comforter, and get



something a little more dazzling. And for the entire home, house plants can make a dull space suddenly come to life.

Be daring

If you are one of those people who insist you don't have the creative bent to accessorize your home, do not fret. Hundreds of magazines offer creative design tips, and professionals like Garcia and his staff are available to give you advice.

Walk through stores. Check out what your friends and neighbors are doing. And most of all, let your imagination run wild and free.

These tips are just a few quick and easy things you can do to make a personal statement in your home. Take the plunge.

After all, the whole idea is making your home space comfortable and safe for yourself. The possibilities are unlimited. **JM**

In this time of need . . .



...we realize that where we put our money is important to us.

Those participating in the purchase or sale of real estate during these times want solid representation and the comfort that their money is going back into the economy and to our heroes.

If chosen as your real estate agent this month, I will donate \$500 of my earnings from each sale to the Red Cross.

Kim Trip

Giving back to our community

503-416-2017

Ktrip@realtytrust.com



REALTY TRUST
GROUP, INC.

KENTON ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

15% OFF WITH THIS COUPON (EXCEPT SALE ITEMS)



8112 N DENVER AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97217
(503) 285-5077 e-mail: kingship@spiritone.com
OPEN TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY
10:00am TO 4:30pm OR BY APPOINTMENT
WE SELL, WE BUY, WE TRADE
WE CONDUCT ESTATE SALES

STUFFINGS

Gifts • Art
Homeware
Vintage &
Way Cool Stuff

House Dressing

1313 NE FREMONT
PORTLAND
503.493.8037

Below Cost Framing

Outstanding Service
Outstanding Quality
Outstanding Price

For a convenient appointment
call (503) 232-9115
712 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, OR 97214

BUY • SELL • CONSIGN • RENTALS

ALWAYS BUYING



OPEN EVE'S

RETRO & MID-CENTURY
MODERN
FURNISHINGS
AND MORE!

GILGAMESH



2800 NE Sandy Blvd • 503.233.1890 • 10-7 Sun-Mon • 10-9 Wed-Sat