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Luxury For Less : Decorating on a Budget

By Camen Natschke

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Get ready to have the home of your dreams on your terms and budget! Luxury for less is so easy when you follow the 10 easy ideas outlined below:

Get Creative: Get your creative juices flowing! Probably the most important part of making the most of your budget and still achieving luxury for less. See beyond the ordinary. A pile of broken dishes is not worth crying over! Pick up the pieces and make a mosaic pattern for that old coffee table in the garage. Learn to approach your décor with fresh eyes

Greenery & Florals. Use greenery and florals to add freshness and impact to your décor. If strategically placed they can also hide ugly flaws such as the air return vent.

Get Inspired. Don't let your budget limit your options. Determine what you need and/or desire and find a way to make it a reality. If you are looking for the luxury of an upholstered headboard but can not find it in your budget to buy one, then learn to make it yourself or enlist the aid of a friend who can. It's all possible to achieve you just need to be inspired to find a way!

Light It Up: Don't underestimate the importance of good lighting! It's no wonder that famous actresses refuse to be filmed unless the lighting is perfect. The wrong lighting can exaggerate flaws , visually change colors of any décor item, or worse yet make a perfectly beautiful room look terrible. Experiment with the lighting in your rooms until you achieve the effect you desire.

Paint, Paint & More Paint. Painting is a very easy and cost effective way to update your interior. A fresh coat of paint can drastically impact the look of your home. Used correctly paint can create an optical illusion and make you room look larger or cozier. You can create the illusion of high ceilings or bring the ceiling down visually, by simply using paint.

Re-Arrange: So easy and possible to do in an afternoon. This is another way to get maximum impact without putting a dent in your wallet. Try configuring your furniture layout until you are pleased. Sometimes you really don't need new furniture you just need to place it correctly to make it look like

you did buy new furniture.

Re-Evaluate: Take the time to inventory your décor. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much you really do have! Once you know what you have you can decide what to do with it. If you have a wingback chair in your bedroom collecting old clothes and dust, then re-evaluate it! Maybe you need to move that chair to complete a perfect conversation area in your living room.

Re-Move: If you don't use it or will have no use for it, then remove it! Donate it to your favorite charity, ask a friend if they can put it to good use or if it is a total loss, toss it! Don't crowd your home and life with "dead" pieces, it will only cause you grief and frustration.

Re-Finish: If you have pieces that are in good condition and still functional then give it a face-lift.

Re-upholster that old tired sofa or strip the paint on that chest of drawers and either stain it or paint it to make it new again!

Re-cycle: Before you throw anything away, think about how it can be given a second life. We all have clothes in our closets that we have put there to be forgotten. Well think about using that old bridesmaids or prom dress as fabric for your fabulous new pillows. Again learn to approach the ordinary items in your home with fresh eyes!

Carmen Natschke is a designer, speaker and co-founder of Room In A Kit LLC. She is passionate about decorating and has shared that passion with hundreds of women through her Decorating Divas workshops and seminars. To read more decorating articles by Carmen visit (<http://www.roominakit.com>).

Country Kitchen Decorating Ideas Are Cozy And Comforting

By Grace P. Fairchild

Country kitchen decorating ideas are for any person who gets pleasure from the warm, earthy feeling of the simplicity of nature. Decorating country kitchen is among the most popular types of interior decorating. This is because of the overall feeling of being welcoming and friendly that country kitchen decorating has to offer those who own the kitchen, as well as any guests and visitors.

If you are considering country and kitchen and decorating ideas, then you will need to decide if you're going to be limiting it to your kitchen, or if you'll be spreading it throughout your home. You will also need to look into the ideas and country kitchen and decorating ideas budget that you'll have available to get the job done.

Among the most popular country kitchen ideas are the following:

* Colors - a country style kitchen usually includes fresh, clean, and warm colors. These may include yellows, browns, greens, whites, and pinks, in their medium shades. They can also be accents in the

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fruits, flowers, vegetables, plants, and other accessories that you can add to your country kitchen decorating idea.

* Furniture - country kitchen decorating ideas usually include furniture in lighter woods, as well as wicker furniture. Floral and gingham patterns flatter the upholstery of chairs and couches well, by either purchasing new furniture or creating slip covers for your existing furniture.

* Flooring - country kitchen decorating means that you'll have natural wood, tile, or flagstone flooring. If these are outside of your budget, an equally appropriate look can be achieved with wall-to-wall carpeting or laminate in the correct light shade. Hooked or braided rugs add an authentic appeal to finish the look.

* Accessories - while decorating country kitchen, the accessories that work best are those that your family enjoys. Photos in wooden frames, paintings of rustic scenes, plants, candles, and lace curtains will all do the trick.

Country kitchens can be a great deal of fun. Just stay open minded, and pick the features that you like the most!

Grace writes for

North Carolina's largest online furniture store

offering premium furniture including a large selection of kitchen



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