



New Years Resolutions

If New Years is the opportunity to make a change in your life, what would it be? Most resolutions are about diet, exercise or organization, but maybe a simpler, more personal resolve to improve your home could be considered.

Every phase of our life offers unique opportunities for changing your habitat. Ask yourself: what is it about my home that isn't working for me? Is there a possibility to make a change that would bring me more joy, freedom or comfort in my everyday life?

After packing up the glittery, festive décor of the holidays, it is the perfect time to re-evaluate the way you have been living in your home. The winter season is defined by a barren, sparse landscape, short days and dark nights, which encourages us to enjoy the warmth and comfort of the indoors. As you pack away the holiday excess for another year, try to look at the rooms in your home as blank slates, rife with possibilities.

Start with function: Is each room serving a distinct purpose? Is it time to consider changing an extra bedroom into an office, fixing a long-broken appliance or getting rid of the furniture or accessories you don't use?

Next, consider placement: In each room, ask yourself if the furniture pieces are in the right place. Does the placement allow you to use the room to its best potential, and does it feel balanced and purposeful? A simple re-arrangement can make a huge difference in the way you utilize and enjoy a space.

Also, consider the décor. If the wallpaper is from the eighties or the furniture was your parents, it automatically dates your home and alters the way it feels. Make improvements so that your house really reflects you. Quick, inexpensive changes can transform your home into place you are comfortable in, and proud to share with others.

Consider a wish list, but don't feel the pressure of commitment. Write down all the things you would like to change about your home. Recording it gives you a better idea of what the possibilities and priorities are, and the things you really want and need. Remember, you have the rest of your life to make it happen.

First, prioritize the entries, in order of importance to you. You may be surprised at how many things you can do yourself, with a little time and effort. Then, divide your list into things you can do yourself, and those needing professional help. Painting, stripping

wallpaper, rearranging furniture, or replacing hardware or window coverings are examples of week-end projects that can vastly improve the look of any room.

If you would like a new bedspread, throw pillows, furniture, art or accessories, keep your eyes open for the next several months. Once you have determined what you really need and truly want, you will run across it eventually. When you find the perfect thing, you will know. And, if you love it, there will always be a place for it in your ever-evolving living space.

Resolve to enjoy your home more this year!

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