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Home & Garden

TREAT THE INSIDE OF YOUR HOME LIKE THE OF YOUR *Love Life*

By RANDY BARBOUR & SCOTT REAVIS OF THE QUEEN'S COURT

The Queen's Court believes your home is a lot like the love of your life. Once upon a time, it was very special, but keeping it up to date may require new textures, paint or colors.

For example, you are really getting tired of looking at that sofa or chair every day. It's time to start redecorating, and just like your wedding day, your home may need inspiration — something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

SOMETHING OLD

There is something to be said for items that are beautiful, old and have stood the test of time. They bring a sense of continuity with the past and stability to the fast pace of our modern life. Look for a nice frame for that photo of your vacation or find a special spot for that vase your great-aunt gave your parents as a wedding gift.

How about that old clock you bought at a yard sale last year, simply because you thought it was beautiful? These objects can help ground us and bring stability to an otherwise busy day and gently remind us of the special moments that brighten our lives.



SOMETHING NEW

How about those items you love, but are looking stale and outdated? Try finding ways to freshen them up a bit. Make your old furnishings look fabulous again by adding some new color prints such as florals, plaids, paisleys or stripes. Sometimes your home needs a little love, like updated lighting, new fixtures or hardware for cabinets or a new coat of paint.

Can't afford a new sofa? New pillows can make a big difference for a lot less money. When shopping, it is handy to have a room chart with paint and fabric samples and measurements, so you will know if an item will look right in the space you are envisioning. You don't need to go wild and spend a lot of money. Just buy a few special items and you may be surprised by how it changes the whole feel of your room.

SOMETHING BORROWED

One of the most cost-effective ways of decorating is to borrow items from other rooms of your home. Move those candles from the family room to the dining room table and give your meals a new look. That lamp on your night stand might be just what the end table in your family room needs. Don't forget to borrow from your attic or storage room, too. You might be able to give new life to a long-forgotten item

that you once loved.

Also, keep in mind that you can borrow more than things — you can borrow ideas from decorating magazines and web sites. If you find a picture of a room you really like, take a closer look to see exactly what you like about it. You may also want to take some time to go to an open house or two to see a few home stagings. You may get a few ideas for a new look.

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SOMETHING BLUE

If blue is your favorite color, it's always great to add a touch of that to a room. If not blue, then find your own color and make it part of your interior decoration. Sometimes just a hint of your favorite color, say a bright tomato red or a deep forest green, could be enough to change the look of your room. If you have trouble finding a favorite color, think about the four seasons — winter, spring, summer and fall. Celebrate and reflect the colors of the current season for inspiration. This will keep your décor fresh and welcoming. Find a color that makes you happy, and don't be afraid to try it out. It could be the key to bringing joy to renewing your home.

When redecorating, keep in mind that your relationship with your home is a lot like a marriage. Keep working on it, refresh it occasionally and learn what works and doesn't work, and you should have years of happiness ahead of you.

Looking for more ideas? Visit www.the-queens-court.business.site.



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