

JUNE 2010

House Beautiful

25+
QUICK
FIXES
FOR EVERY
ROOM IN YOUR
HOUSE

12
GREAT
shades of
yellow

WHAT
YOU
CAN DO
IN A
DAY



\$4.50



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THE LAST WORDS

We were so inspired by the 25 ideas of things you can do in a day, we wanted more! Here, a baker's dozen to add to your list.

Interviews by
MIMI READ

"If you've got a neutral room, paint one wall an exciting color. Pale blue, tangerine, or coral would be pretty. Layer on more color with textiles and accessories—a throw, a quilt, pillows, flowers, candles, books, and a beautiful colored lampshade."

PATRICK WADE, CREATIVE DIRECTOR

"I'd indulge myself and buy a piece of fabric I'd been coveting—an antique textile, some bright remnant, or a gorgeous dress from the flea market. Then I'd go to the nearest seamstress and say, 'Make me a pillow out of this.' It probably wouldn't cost much, but I'd know I'd done something special and beautiful for myself."

AMY LAU, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Get your bookshelves together. Book spines should line up with the front edge of each shelf, with no more than 1/8-inch of shelf showing. Arrange them according to height, but not in ascending order—make a gentle wave pattern so the eye goes up and down. Organize them so the colors look good. Mix in beautiful art and objects, placing them strategically in some faintly geometric pattern, maybe an X. One more thing: Banish your paperbacks to the basement!"

ELAINE GRIFFIN, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Rent a Dumpster and prune, prune, prune! If you take a day and actually look at the things in your house, you'll realize that a million of them can be tossed."

JONATHAN ADLER, DESIGNER

"Change your pillow story. Nothing is about matching and everything is about layering. I just bought a gorgeous needlepoint pillow of the British flag and threw it on my white linen sofa, in a blue-and-white room that also has tangerine and purple velvet in it. Everyone thinks I redid the room."

BARCLAY BUTERA, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Tradition and shine are back, so if you want to update your home without slipcovering everything in sight, add a pair of pillows in a glazed cabbage-rose chintz or a beautiful Edwardian floral."

KEVIN ISBELL
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"The quickest cheap and cheerful make-over is to clean your windows. All you need is a good squeegee and three parts water to one part ammonia in a bucket. It's better than a trip to the shrink!"

JONATHAN ROSEN
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"What if you threw away all of your frayed, mismatched towels and replaced them with a set of the best new towels you could afford? A big, thirsty, yummy bath sheet is heaven. You could buy luxurious towels by Frette. Or you could be wacky and get those wonderful Paul Smith striped towels. It would change the energy."

AARON HOM
ART DIRECTOR AND STYLIST

"Rearranging furniture and re-hanging art is always exhilarating and dynamic. And don't just move your stuff around the same room. When you move a sofa from a library to a bedroom, it will change how you see the piece—and how you live in both rooms. A strong painting with reds and oranges may seem right only for the living room, but it could really punch up a pink and gray bedroom."

AMANDA NISBET, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Make all your lighting more subtle and layered. Install dimmers in every room. They even make dimmers you can plug into lamps."

GRANT GIBSON
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Paint a piece of furniture a different color. Your old wooden bookshelf in high-polish lacquered green will take on a new life!"

KIM ALEXANDRIUK
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Fill your house with flowers. Once a week, I head to the flower market and get lots of freesias, hydrangeas, lilacs, forsythia, tulips, or whatever's in season. Using tin cans and Mason jars for vases, my husband and I make arrangements for every room."

KIRSTEN BRANT, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"You could give one room a ceiling make-over: Paint it a fun color, then change a traditional light fixture to something big, modern, and splashy."

MARY McDONALD
INTERIOR DESIGNER