



sweetpeasdesign

inspirational interiors

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## repurpose, refine, reinvent

Dear Subscriber,

**Welcome to the third issue of our *Scribbles... Possibilities... and Discoveries* e- newsletter. The topic for this month is "RE". **Rebuild. Reconstruct. Recreate. Redo. Remodel. Restyle. Reuse. And even rewrite...** (No, not me...)**

Our three favorite "RE" words at *sweetpeasdesign* are **REPURPOSE, REFINE and REINVENT**. According to Dictionary.com, the definition of repurpose is to use or convert for use in another format or product. The definition of refine is to make elegant, cultured, subtle or precise and to improve by inserting finer distinction and or superior elements. And, the definition of reinvent is to make over completely or invent anew.

Repurposing and refining are essential elements of our design process and tenants that we adhere to. Using what you have as a starting point allows us to collaborate with you to create a home that is a comfortable reflection of who you are. Sometimes, we are given a blank slate or a complete overhaul is requested and then a reinvention is in order. Many times, clients say, "I don't have an interior style". You do, you just don't know it! Our job is to discover and unearth your interior style and bring it to the forefront.

Think about the **RE** words that resonate the most with you. Maybe it's time to **REVISIT** the room(s) you didn't quite complete or that you put off to a later date. You might want to **RECONSIDER** how your changing family relationships affect your lifestyle and thus your home. Or, **RESOLVE** to make one small change in your home today and everyday.

Your lifestyle and thus your interior style are always evolving.

Have a wonderful **REMAINDER** of the summer.

Susan

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The *sweetpeasdesign* Team

*PS If you forward our newsletter to a friend or colleague, please email Susan their name, address, phone and email so that we know who our readers are... Thank you!*

## one person's trash is another person's treasure!

Join our Sweet Swap and attend our Fire Sale!

**Saturday, September 12th 8:30 AM- Noon 507 E. Park Avenue (our office) Libertyville, IL 60048**

Relinquish an item in your home and bring it into *sweetpeasdesign* September 1st through 10th and receive a ticket. Redeem your ticket at the Sweet Swap. Select a replacement item brought in by someone else to take home.

Swapping is on a first come first serve basis. So get here early for the best selections! Recommend our Sweet Swap to your friends. The more items brought in, the more items to choose from!

Please make sure the item you bring to swap is in excellent condition.

Don't forget to browse our Fire Sale! We will have many accessories at hot prices!

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### re-purposing trends

#### 1 reconsider

Reconsider the function and placement of your existing furniture. A console or sofa table can be used as an entry table in the hall or foyer, a dining room buffet or even as a desk or communications center.

#### 2 redeploy

Redeploy your accessories by removing all the pieces from both your horizontal and vertical surfaces. Include artwork, lamps, books, candlesticks, greens etc. and place them all in the middle of a room or on your kitchen counters. Put half into storage. Reposition what is left into new groupings throughout your home. Give each piece a new place to reside. In one year, switch out those in storage.

#### 3 reorganize

Reorganize your bookcases for an instant sense of order. Place books so their spines are close to the front of the shelves and remove the covers or dust jackets. The solid color spines add a calming touch and typically blend better with your color palette. Intersperse books with your favorite accessories or collections.

#### 4 reshuffle

Reshuffle and regroup your furniture to transform a room. Float furniture in the middle or consider angling it to capture a better view or give impact to a focal point. Break up sectional pieces for a trendy look. Have multiple seating and conversation areas in the room.

#### 5 replace

Replace a flush mount ceiling light fixture or ceiling fan with a chandelier or chandelette (a mini chandelier). Hang over a bath tub, in the center of the master bedroom, in the powder room, in the living room or a pair over your island in the kitchen — anywhere you need to add an extra layer to your room!

#### 6 recycle

Recycle and get rid of all that you no longer need or feel an attachment towards. Too much stuff weighs you down. Edit. Edit and edit some more and then donate, throw out and redistribute all your items. You will love the feeling of accomplishment and be less burdened!

#### 7 rejuvenate

Rejuvenate your bathrooms. Remove the old plumbing fixtures such as the sink, toilet, tub, shower and faucets and replace with new. Chrome is hot again! Redefine the space by relocating your cabinets and enlarging your shower so that you can turn around without bumping your elbows on the walls.

#### 8 reconsider

Reconsider the interior doors and door hardware throughout your home. Banish your slab doors and replace with two panel doors. Brushed nickel, oil rubbed bronze or brushed brass are the current finished choices for the knobs and hinges.

#### 9 refresh

Refresh your kitchen cabinets with a color wash or glaze. Paint some and stain the others. Hire a professional specialty painter for an amazing transformation. Mix cabinet hardware styles and door styles to reflect your personal taste.

#### 10 rewire

Rewire your family room or media room to include a sound system. Closed component storage is a must for your DVR, wii and DVD. Don't forget about your speakers, both interior and exterior.

#### 10+ remix

Remix... Buy vintage pieces to combine with your new purchases. Save a bit of the past with an antique chair and pair it with a modern piece of art. Matchy-matchy is out.

relax and enjoy your efforts

reward yourself with whatever makes you happy

## the "space" program



### Whether you're decorating your primary residence, a city apartment (pied-à-terre) or a country weekend cottage — understanding your space and its possibilities is key to a functional and livable outcome and a place that you love to spend time in!

At any given time, our "space program" can be challenged by changing personal relationships and of course by the economy! Children leaving the house to marry or start college, second marriages, grand parents moving in — *all affect how we chose to use and share the available space we have.*

When the head count changes, we have the opportunity to reassess our space and change our mindset. Depending on a given situation, we may be asked to relinquish some of our personal space (think home office to create a bedroom for an elderly parent) or we might suddenly have the opportunity to reclaim space we haven't enjoyed previously in our homes (think the lower level or basement if you have teenagers).

#### When you add to your "head count" you need to think and or rethink about:

- combining the existing with the new
- mixing his and hers
- balancing various styles with lifestyle
- creating multifunctional spaces
- organizing and storing additional furnishings and possessions
- finding privacy
- editing rigorously

#### When your "head count" becomes smaller, you need to think about:

- filling the space
- reorganizing the space
- finding a new function(s) for the space

Decide on what each person requires in the space, what activities will occur in the space and how to accommodate for them. Don't forget to carve out your own space or niche. The negative or leftover space then can be reallocated to others in the household.

### the art of compromise

Interior designers are often asked to get involved to resolve issues related to blending styles and sharing space. A third party can view your space and furnishings from a professional, unbiased eye and bring experience, instinct and solutions that you might not have thought of. A great house is not only about "the look" but also about performance — how it works for you. An interior design firm can assist you in making decisions about what furniture and accessories can be utilized from two households, what possessions need to be relocated or what needs to be given away. Blending and mixing- new and old, modern and traditional- is a way to bridge the differing tastes of two or more people all living together under one roof. Blending lifestyles, personalities and taste levels is the biggest design challenge — but most often results in the most creative interior style! One that is uniquely yours... *Your home is deeply personal. It reflects you and should inspire you.*

#### ready to launch your new space program?

## suggestions & insights

### to the rescue

Resuscitate and breathe life into your tired looking, dated and worn out furniture! **Recover, re-upholster and refinish existing pieces in your home.** Slipcovers are the easiest way to make furniture look new and revitalize your upholstery. For two new looks, use reversible slipcovers. **Re-upholster** your dining room or kitchen chair seat cushions for an instant and affordable change. **Redress** Grandma's hand-me-down antique chair with new fabric and trim for an updated look. A good re-upholsterer can rebuild the arm of your sofa, add a skirt and revise the foot or base. **Personalize** your vintage or existing piece of furniture with a fresh stain or a painted finish and voila, you've recreated something old into something new! Re-upholstery and refinishing comes with a price, but the end result will hopefully be worth it.



## get the look

### retreat from the chaos — revisit your master bedroom

The master bedroom is becoming more than a place to sleep. If you are seeking refuge, relaxation and privacy from your family and are looking for a quiet getaway, then rethink your master bedroom and turn it into a suite. **Think hotel** ... add an under counter refrigerator, sink or coffee bar — even a wine refrigerator. Knock out a wall and **move your exercise equipment** from your dark basement — natural light is an energizer. **Can't live without a TV in your room?** A pop-up plasma at the end of the bed is hidden when not in use. **Reorganize a second closet** and turn it into a small office complete with a built in desk, storage and shelving. **Relocate a pair of chairs and a table** to your master bedroom to provide a work surface for your laptop, read the morning newspaper or share a quiet meal together. **Place a loveseat, pair of chairs or chaises at the end of the bed** to create a early morning or late night conversations.

## suggestions & insights

### redefining the ottoman

An ottoman (or pair of ottomans) is a must-have item in every home and gets top billing on our list of essentials! The simple act of moving an ottoman from one location to another in the same room changes its function and purpose. An ottoman is multifunctional — it can be an extra seating piece in a family room or living room (especially a pair), a footrest in front of a chair, an end table (put stacks of books on it), or a cocktail table (rest a tray on it). Slip an ottoman under a console table when it is not in use to add interest and fill up negative space.

