

Lake Minnetonka

OUR COMMUNITY / OUR MAGAZINE

Luke, Keith, Britta
and Becky Swenson



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Breezy Room Re-dos

Refresh your space with tips from the pros.

TIRED OF YOUR SAME FOUR WALLS?

Something about this time of year makes us yearn for a whiff of spring air in our home. We consulted local interior designers to bring you some fresh ideas to brighten your abode and came up with these breezy tips. Do just one, or follow them all for a new take on your home style.

1. RESTORE ORDER

De-clutter for a clean slate—and to clear your head—before implementing any bigger changes. Your old cast-offs can stock a garage sale, contribute to a worthy cause or become the basis for a trading party with friends. Andrea

Kerrison of Larson Kerrison Interior Design (612.869.4434; larsonkerrison.com), based in Mound, always aims to organize in an aesthetically pleasing way: "It can be as simple as a new basket for the fireplace logs, or a really great antique bin or box for magazines and newspapers."

2. REFRESH YOUR PERSPECTIVE

No need to make big purchases or mount a major remodeling project. Kerrison says, "I enjoy moving things around, including artwork. Trying pieces on a different wall can give your room a different look."

William Payne of William Payne Consulting and Design (612.310.6855) suggests changing your view with white cotton voile window panels for a sheer, fresh outlook.

3. APPLY COLOR

Once you've cleared the clutter, fresh paint can be a breeze. Painting is one of the least expensive ways to create a new look; Kerrison recommends it because it's "always an easy way to give a room new impact, subtle or dramatic."

Designer Susie Ries filled us in on what colors and fabrics she is seeing for the new season. Ries, who just launched Susie Ries Interiors (952.484.2965), was inspired by the "breezy, fresh, clean look of neutrals, off-whites, taupes and charcoal grays."

Payne dug into his paintbox to suggest some neutral wall colors he and his clients like right now. (See sidebar on his Fresh Fixes, below.)

4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Now that you can, enjoy the balmy weather and paint a piece of furniture, giving one of your tired favorites or secondhand finds a facelift.

Payne suggests bringing the outside in with a large houseplant or two in a willow basket. He also likes polished river rocks in a stainless steel tray on an ottoman or coffee table for a simple nod to nature. Update your floor with a natural sisal rug layered over existing carpet for a more casual, natural feel.

If you can't wait for outdoor blooms, local florists can oblige with potted bulbs you can watch bloom and grow. Place one in a spot you see first thing every day, like your breakfast table, and you'll be rewarded with a cheerful reminder of what lies ahead.

5. CONSIDER YOUR ACCENTS

Accessories are "inexpensive ideas to freshen things up a bit," Kerrison says. "Re-arrange and add a few pieces—something interesting that has some patina. Add a new throw over your sofa. I love the mix of old and new."

Payne suggests decorative pillows in crisp white linen and natural cotton with one accent color (he likes amethyst or a sunny yellow), while Ries favors accents of crisp apple green, turquoise and orange. Kerrison suggests recovering or adding new trim to existing deck pillows for an even thriftier change.

With a neutral base on the walls, and

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natural fibers and color in furniture and on floor covering, Ries loves the ease of seasonal changes. "You can change just a few pieces to dark reds, deepen your charcoals and add velvets to your natural fibers, and you're ready for fall and winter," she says.

6. VISIT LOCAL PURVEYORS

The Lake Minnetonka area is home to a plethora of great shops for the home. Find the perfect piece to accent your living space at some of Andrea Kerrison's favorite shops:

Country Look-In Antiques. "They have really great accessories and I always find something wonderful, whether it's candlesticks or a unique basket or vintage books." 240 Water St., Excelsior; 952.474.0050

The Hope Chest. "Look for an unusual lamp or vase. I have even found art pieces donated by some local artists." 3850 Shoreline Dr., Orono; 952.471.8700; hopechest.us/Orono

Minnetonka Center for the Arts. "A really great place for art and accessories with great prices." 2240 North Shore Dr., Wayzata; 952.473.7361; minnetonkaARTS.org

Once Upon A Time Antiques. "They have lovely pieces that are in excellent condition and many that are primitive, like wooden pitchforks for throwing hay." 369 George St., Excelsior; 952.470.0390 //

→ William Payne's Fresh Fixes

In the entry: Add a new rug.

In the powder room: Add fresh towels, a new rug and wall art in a new color.

From his paintbox: Sherwin-Williams shades of Colonnade Gray (a warm gray), Lemongrass (a pale green), Conservative Gray (a bluish gray that works in virtually any room); pair any with Origami White for woodwork and trim.

→ More from Andrea Kerrison

Two of her favorite local artists:

Bruce Miller, brucemillerartist.com, paints beautiful oils of various Lake Minnetonka scenes and landscapes.

Deb Zeller, zellerstudio.com, is a bronze sculpture artist who just completed a large installation of a sculpture at Holy Family School in Victoria. She does small pieces that look great on a mantle or a bookshelf.



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