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Family Room, after redesign, freshly painted with rug and future curtains (top); Family Room, before, without rug and with old curtains (bottom, right); Rug swatch (bottom, left)

photos by Leah Ratliff and Jennifer Thomas

A Quick Make Over for the Holidays

By Elaine Williamson

IT'S THE TIME OF YEAR family and friends will be coming to visit for the holidays. Here are a few relatively quick and inexpensive changes that will dramatically update your home and have your guests wondering if they have come to the right place!

The two most impressive and cost-effective improvements to make are paint and accent rugs. Couple those changes with a re-mix of existing decorative accents found in other parts of the house and you have a fresh new look.

In the open family room and kitchen area, subtle paint colors were chosen for the walls, ceiling and cabinets that "flowed" well together and provided that immediate "Wow!" factor. The final step for the kitchen cabinets is to tea stain them with a slightly darker glaze. The

walls and ceiling were painted the same color but due to lighting, look somewhat different.

Also, for a huge boost, Chris Sorenson of Sorenson Paint, used a relatively new product and special technique to paint the Formica countertops to dramatically change this kitchen.

After discovering this new technique, the homeowner requested that he also paint the ceramic tiles around the fireplace.

In the family room, a long pile, honey colored "shag" rug was added to warm up the hard wood floors and soften up the "floor sitters" view of the fireplace and television.

Also, the rug under the kitchen table needed fewer patterns so we changed to

a subtle green jute rug with black banding. This ties in nicely with the black iron in the table, bar stools and accessories in the kitchen. See, it's starting to flow!

"The most impressive and cost-effective improvements to make are paint, accent rugs, and re-mixing existing accessories."

The family room bookshelves needed just a little reorganizing. We





Kitchen with new paint treatments and regrouped accessories (top); Grouping close-up (top, right); Kitchen, before (bottom, left)

photos by Leah Ratliff and Jennifer Thomas

truly used everything, except for a new floral arrangement, from collections the homeowner already had in other rooms. Remember bookshelves aren't just for books anymore!

Accessorizing can be terrorizing for some. However, as shown here, it is simply a matter of grouping like items together whether it is on a tray or above the cabinets. It helps to make a larger statement and lets your eye settle on vignettes instead of small, scattered items.

"The object of this re-design was to transform this kitchen and family room with accessories the homeowners already had."

The clients want to eventually replace pieces of furniture and accessories.

However, the object of this re-design project was to transform this kitchen and family room with accessories the homeowners already had. Often, a homeowner is hesitant to contact a decorator for assistance fearing the expense of redoing the entire house or even a single room. Bella Cosa is adept at creating a plan for a home and executing that plan, part by part, as budget allows.

The homeowner's cookbook collection was placed in the gorgeous armoire/bar cabinet for easy access. However, others were placed on top of the refrigerator for a decorative effect that speaks to the homeowner's passion for cooking. We placed a larger picture above the cook top for a grander presence.

Future plans for draperies were drawn for the homeowners and fabric has been selected. When the homeowners are ready, this drapery plan will be executed.

Now that the family room and kitchen are ready for guests, let's move on to the rest of the house!

Elaine Williamson is the owner of Bella Cosa, a home décor and furnishings store in Frisco Square.



Family room bookcase, before (top); Family room bookcase, after (bottom) photos by Leah Ratliff and Jennifer Thomas