

Budget-wise tips to create a decorator look

These days, making every penny count is more important than ever — but that doesn't mean we can't indulge ourselves a little when it comes to creating a beautiful and inviting home — and Kmart can help.

These new tips from Kmart's decorating specialists make it easy to use imagination instead of money to create the home of our dreams — without changing the furniture or making a dent in the family budget.

• **Walls with a difference** — A little

paint, fabric and imagination can add an exciting designer touch to a room for very little money. Try do-it-yourself stencils above doors, along the ceiling border and around window frames. Ordinary bedsheets provide an elegant tented look. Choose stripes or small floral printed flat sheets, and make a 1-inch hem at both ends. Install curtain rods along the top and bottom of each wall, then slide the sheets along the rods carefully to create a shirred effect. This is a great way to disguise damaged

walls or dress up a bedroom or bath. • **Artwork adds style** — Give any room an instant facelift by showcasing an affordable art collection, using art that matches your decorating theme. For a contemporary room, choose bright images.

If country is your preference, try landscapes, floral prints, or work by artists such as Charles Wysocki or Currier & Ives. Botanical prints give a fresh, natural feeling to any room. In the den, create a casual look with col-

orful sporting prints, equestrian or hunt scenes.

You can collect prints by a single artist, by style or subject — or you can mix and match to create your own personal style. Because Kmart always has a full selection of quality framed art in popular styles with prices that are right for every budget, you'll be amazed at how quickly and affordably you can create your own art collection.

• **Raising the roof** — Use artwork to change the dimensions of a room.

If ceilings are low, hang pictures above eye level to create a feeling of height. For high ceilings, display pictures lower on the wall. In a long, narrow hallway, use lots of different sized prints hung at a variety of levels to break up the space.

Keep proportions in mind; try not to overpower a small room, such as a bathroom or guest bedroom, with oversized prints. Instead, try a group of smaller pieces with similar styles and frame and mat colors.

• **Pretty as a picture** — When hanging pictures, use your head before you use your hammer.

Group several small prints in a similar style over the sofa, instead of one large piece. Vary sizes and shapes, and don't hang everything in a straight line.

To find the perfect spot for each work of art, cut a sheet of paper approximately the size of each picture you want to hang. Put a small piece of double-sided tape on the back and use these models to work out perfect wall placement.

• **Magic make-overs** — The secret to changing the style and feeling of a room without refurbishing is using inexpensive accessories.

Decide on a style, then follow these basic rules. First select a "signature shade" — the color of the sofa, rug or other furniture — then add accessories in coordinating shades. Accessories include framed prints and artwork, throw pillows, vases, baskets, and figurines that help set the style.

Artwork with a country theme, landscapes or botanical prints, baskets tied with calico ribbons, dried flowers, a decorative quilt, and a few country collectibles will turn your living room into a country cottage.

An oriental style rug, velvet throw pillows, brass and crystal accents and English hunting prints on the wall, give an elegant traditional look to a living room.

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