



Real Estate



See the logic

An Earth-friendly way to clean your windows just makes sense.
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THE NEW MEXICAN



Graphic wallpaper designs make a modern impression enhanced with a coat of silver metallic paint.

Courtesy photo

Embossed wallpaper is trendy

Question: My boyfriend and I have just moved into a new condo, and we want it to look modern. We don't have much furniture yet, but we figure we can do something cool with the walls to give our new home some character. We both love your shows and agree to go along with any ideas you give us. Thanks for your help. — Penny and Patrick

Answer: Working with a blank canvas can be intimidating — especially when today's decorating options are limitless. There are so many exciting new products, it's hard to know where to start. There's a new look in wallpaper that you



DEBBIE TRAVIS
House to Home

should check out. Paintable embossed wallpaper has raised designs that add instant texture to your walls.

These papers come in many designs, from traditional damasks to contemporary geometric patterns. Hanging paper is

not difficult, and most come pre-glued. Once the paper is up, you'll notice the difference in the way your space looks and feels even before you paint. A solid base coat of paint is necessary to protect and seal the paper. Make sure you get into all the crevices and indentations. Now for more decisions.

You can apply any color of paint, and the effect will be fantastic. Or, why not try metallic or pearlescent paint? They are hot trends right now — I applied silver metallic paint over the embossed circle paper shown here. Metallic paints are more expensive, so always start with a regular paint base coat in

a color close to the metal paint so that you only require one coat for the effect.

If you choose to highlight the paper's raised design, apply an ocher-colored glaze over a white base coat and rub it back, leaving the dark glaze behind in the indentations.

Create a simple vignette composed of a few shapely objects that draw the eye, and you will have added tremendous character to your new home.

Question: We have a cathedral ceiling upstairs, half in our bedroom and half in the other

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An affordable solution: redesign

You don't have to be rich to get help spiffing up that problem room

By Heather Wood
For The New Mexican

Use-what-you-own decorating. One-day room makeovers. Decorator for a day. Restyling.

What do these terms have in common?

Redesign — a trend that's creating big buzz nationwide in the world of home interiors. Unlike traditional interior decorating and design, interior redesign reinvents a room using what you already have. Sound dubious? Read on.

Redesign has gained tremendous popularity over the last decade as an alternative to traditional redecorating. Entire associations have evolved to support this burgeoning field, including the Interior Redesign Industry Specialists (IRIS) and the Interior Refiners Network (IRN).

Lauri Ward, author of *Trade Secrets from Use What You Have Decorating*, is frequently referred to as the founder of the redesign movement. A designer by trade, she began her business in New York in 1981 with the notion that even though average Americans could not afford to hire a traditional interior designer to decorate their homes, they still desired, and deserved, a comfortable and stylish place in which to live.

If cable TV is any indication, Ward was right. The pop-culture interest in affordable home interiors and enhancements has never been greater. Some channels — including HGTV, the DIY (Do It Yourself) Channel and The Learning Channel — are dedicated partially, if not entirely, to home improvement. TV shows such as HGTV's *Decorating Sense* and *Freestyle* showcase the redesign technique and what a little elbow grease and ingenuity can do to bring a fresh new look to a room.

While television shows



Some simple shifts of furnishings and accessories make this space, which is the first thing you see from the entryway, warm and welcoming.

Photos by Heather Wood
For The New Mexican

have the benefit of a large cast and crew to transform spaces quickly, the well-trained redesigner can provide similar results in your home.

The right arrangement

Albuquerque resident Karen Vaught hired a redesigner to assist with a difficult room in her new home. "We have one particularly challenging room — a small living room with an 18-foot high ceiling that opens to the dining room, entry and second-floor landing," she said.

Vaught had painted and installed new flooring and window coverings, but still couldn't get the room to look the way she wanted. She had difficulty coming up with a workable furniture arrangement, too. All the arrangements she tried "either

looked awkward, weren't practical, or interrupted the flow of the rooms," she said.

The redesigner cleared the room, Vaught said, "then spent only 20 minutes moving furniture around before she came up with an ideal arrangement that optimized the flow through the room and looked great from all angles."

Space transformation

A typical redesign begins with a consultation to evaluate the room or rooms being considered. Conversation with the homeowner helps determine style preferences and pieces that must stay, as well as her frustrations with the room.

The redesigner takes into

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An awkward room arrangement made this already small living room feel even smaller.

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