



Beautiful Décor's Inc.

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October 2010 Newsletter

Greetings Friends & Clients:

Don't you love before and after photos? This month I traveled to client homes with photographer, [George Schober](#), to update my portfolio. I wish I could capture all my projects this way but since that's not feasible, I chose homes with some challenging decorating goals. This month's newsletter shows the transformation of an awkward, uninviting living room to a warm, friendly space that truly makes this house a home!

Jim and Janet were generally unhappy with the living room in their newly built house: it was small but with 12-foot high ceilings; it was dark due to a covered porch blocking daylight from the windows; and the fireplace, the main focal point in the room, was designed with a large, recessed area above the shelf to hold a behemoth TV. This feature was probably the most upsetting to Janet who leaned a behemoth painting on the mantle shelf hide it. Not a long-term solution.

When Janet contacted me she had several objectives to meet: make the room usable, make it cozy and give us a "WOW" factor! See the progression with final outcome below and the tools I used to help Janet and Jim visualize the changes we were about to make.

"...We are THRILLED with the look that you have accomplished for us!" - Janet

"More before and after photos are in my [online portfolio](#). And thank you for your wonderful referrals!" - Denise

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Step 1: Space Planning

The first step was to determine the best furniture layout for the room since Janet didn't want the TV above the fireplace. Using my PC-based space planning tool, we found that she could use a tall entertainment center against the long wall, a small couch and three comfortable chairs to square off the room. My clients replaced the wall-to-wall carpeting with hardwood floors and we measured for a rug and all other furnishings using the CAD program.



Step 2: Window Treatment Design

Janet had actually purchased pre-made window treatments from a store but had been disappointed with the outcome. Using another PC program, I created several custom designs for her that would add height to the windows (to accentuate the ceiling) and soften the hard trim edges. Janet selected this design as her favorite. The key to keeping these treatments from overwhelming the small room was *blending* the drapes into the wall color so that you perceived softness through the folds and texture of the fabric without a strong contrast color interrupting the visual flow.



Step 3: Mantle Design

Without realizing it, I got Jim thinking about his next big home project. He used the conceptualized mantle I arbitrarily drew to complete the window treatment design above as his road map for building one himself! I'll be darned if he didn't pull out his saw and replicate it to a tee! (see AFTER below). He even added the light fixtures! You would never know there is a behemoth hole behind it.



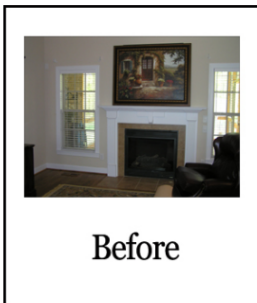
Step 4: Furniture, Palette, Accessories

Throughout the process, I worked with Jim and Janet to pick their furniture upholstery, floor covering and fabrics. The lovely rug inspired the palette which held the harmonious triad: yellow-orange, blue-green and red-violet (see [past newsletters to learn about palettes and harmonies](#)). I selected "Boardwalk" by Benjamin Moore for the living room walls to achieve the warmth and coziness Janet wanted.

Furniture & Fabrics



And Voila!



Before



After

[Click here to access larger images in my website portfolio.](#)

"We wanted something that was warm and inviting with a "WOW" factor and you have absolutely done a beautiful job on all 3 wishes." - Janet



Beautiful Rooms



*...You will **LOVE** coming home to.*