all*you

Enjoy life for less!

Issue 9, September 21, 2012

WALK OFF WEIGHT *FAST*

FROM TOP: PC IMAGES, ISTOCKPHOTO

8 *Light it right*

Good lighting can dramatically transform a room. Create "layers" with a mix of lamps as well as an overhead fixture. Install dimmer switches to vary the mood. Replace heavy drapery and blinds with sheers or light-filtering shades to let the sunshine in.

9 *Repeat yourself*

Random tchotchkes placed throughout a house can end up looking like clutter. By contrast, pairs, trios or even larger groupings of objects and art tend to make the most appealing displays, whether on a sideboard, mantel or wall. Group items based on theme, material or color.

10 *Frill 'er up*

Customize old curtains, pillows, and lampshades by sewing or gluing decorative trim to the edges.

Sources: *Cathy Hobbs, interior designer and HGTV Design Star finalist; Sabrina Soto, HGTV designer, Target style expert and author of Home Design; Sabina Vavra, interior designer*

10 ways to decorate *on a dime*

Transform your home without spending a bundle. These tips, tricks and easy projects lend a professional look for less

1 Move in
Update your living room or family room by rearranging the furniture so that not everything is against a wall. It will improve the traffic flow. Plus, placing chairs closer to the sofa facilitates conversation.

2 Hit the walls
Installing a chair rail or molding is an inexpensive update that lends elegance to a room. As an alternative, consider painting a narrow stripe along the top of walls, 3 to 4 inches from the ceiling—a simple detail that adds visual impact.

3 Reflect on this
Hanging a mirror in your living room adds a touch of glamour, and it makes the room feel larger and brighter. Just be sure not to place the mirror between windows—which can distract from the view.

4 Judge books by their cover
Pick up colorful hardcovers at a thrift store or cover plain books with decorative paper, then use them to give bookshelves a chic tweak. When arranging shelves, try laying a few books flat and using them as a pedestal for a special knickknack. Leave some empty space so shelves don't seem overloaded. Give a plain bookcase a quick makeover by painting the rear panel a bold hue or covering it with patterned wallpaper.

5 Go long
Position curtain rods above the window frame and select drapes that extend all the way to the floor. Your ceilings will appear higher, making the room feel more airier, and the long curtains add drama. Use rods that are wider than the frame to make windows look larger.

6 Embrace texture
Create a luxurious look with moderately priced faux-fur throws and textured woven blankets. They add visual interest, can perk up dated upholstery and come in handy on cold nights.

7 Get fresh
Employ Mother Nature to help make your décor feel more alive. Arrange a bouquet of supermarket flowers in a pretty vase, place a bowl of lemons or apples on the coffee table, or fill a hurricane lamp with mini pinecones to use as a centerpiece.

TETRA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES (FRAME); DYNAMIC GRAPHICS/GETTY IMAGES (BOOKS, STOCKPHOTO (VASE)

Like this mirror? Check out the Tanika (28" H x 32" W), $199, at homedecorators.com.

For a similar lamp, see the Threshold base, $50, and shade, $20, at Target.

Hunt for knockoffs Browse high-end catalogs for pieces you find attractive, then challenge yourself to find similar items at discount stores or garage sales. Each time you look at the finds you brought home, you'll feel satisfied, knowing what bargains they were!

To get this look, try the Freshford fabric, $48 per yard, at lauraashleyusa.com.

FRONT TOP: PC IMAGES, ISTOCKPHOTO

Hallowe

Cute crafts to delight all