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Revamp and Refresh Your Home Seasonally



Written by Contrast Design Group Inc. Keitha Brathwaite & Erik Kolacz

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Tips on Revamping and Refreshing Your Home Seasonally from Contrast Design Group Inc. Keitha Brathwaite & Erik Kolacz.

Erik Kolacz was recently on season one of the Interior Designer reality TV show Bravo's TOP DESIGN

Keep the season in mind when approaching your home decor. You wouldn't wear a winter coat in the middle of July and the same should be true for your home. Spring/Summer is not just the time for deep cleaning and renewal but also for paring down and refreshing your home décor. Instead of forest green choose lime green. Change your accessories from a basket of pine cones to a bowl of fresh green granny smith apples. Change an Oriental rug to sisal rug with a punchy border. You can breathe new life into your home by simply changing your accent pillows and drapery. Switch to sheer drapery to better appreciate the summer sunshine, incorporate accent pillows in fruit inspired shades such as: lime, melon, and mango. Even try an accent wall in a bright color just for the season. Peel off the winter layers and pare down for a simple summer look.



Erik & Keitha

Change out accessories on your cocktail table to invoke a summer flavor. Surround a candle with seashells and sand in a large hurricane. Consider using tropical leaves or a vase full of beach glass instead of the typical floral arrangement. Think of what caught your attention on your last warm weather vacation and incorporate those ideas into your home. Even a fresh bowl of fruit from your local farmers' market can do the trick. Add

limes or lemons to the base of a floral arrangement in a wonderful glass vase. The cocktail table is a great place to highlight coffee table books reminiscent of warm destinations you've been to or would like to travel to some day. Even change your photo frames to summer inspired materials such as mother of pearl or shell. Change out your photos to wonderful warm weather vacations you've experienced. Use your cocktail table to create simple vignettes that tell a story.

The dining room is another place to make a seasonal statement. Add a table runner with seashell accents or add chargers to your basic white china with fresh citrus colors. (Editor's note: A charger is a large flat plate that is removed when the food is served.) Slip cover dining chairs in bright summer colors or even off white canvas for a fresh take on the dining experience. Create an enticing display in the center of the dining table that incorporates fresh summer fruits and flowers. Again a good hurricane is invaluable for



maximum impact in the dining area on a console or a low buffet. You can float flowers and sea glass in a low vase with water for a stunning effect. Accessorize simple white napkins with real shell napkin holders. Swap out a piece of art for a mirror that reflects a stunning outdoor summertime view that can be appreciated during dinner. The key to a strong spring/summer theme is to include nature inspired items in the dining experience. The kitchen is also a great place to showcase spring/summer abundance. A bowl of fruit can be a fabulous accessory. Experiment with fruit you may not ordinarily use simply for the visual appeal. A bowl of papaya, mango and pineapple is a beautiful, colorful addition to any kitchen and just broadcasts that spring/summer has arrived. Pare down accessories in the kitchen for a lighter feel. Display a beautiful white charger with intricate carving on a stand or incorporate a large vase with sunflowers on an island. The kitchen is the perfect stage for seasonal accents of all kinds.



Spring

place to add a light airy feel. Change your bedding to linens and cottons in wonderful vanilla and white shades with just a shot of color from a silk accent pillow in a citrus shade. Keep the bedding simple and pared down. Leave off the numerous pillows you may be inclined to use in your winter bedding. Think of a wonderful summer dress with just a fun bag or colorful sandals. Use crisp white Egyptian cotton sheets and a lightweight coverlet

instead of a bulky comforter. Use materials that feel cool to the skin and that breathe. Include fresh flowers and fruit in your space.

Your bath could also benefit from the change in season. Bath salts in fresh summer scents are always a welcome addition to any bath. An apothecary with a sterling scoop is a beautiful bath accessory, which also adds the benefit of making a cooling bath



Winter

more pleasurable. Try accenting the bath with vanilla colored towels in wonderful patterns and textures. Add a fresh vase of cherry blossoms, equally welcome in a traditional or contemporary space, to a vanity for a fresh spring touch.

Don't stop at the interior. Dress up an exterior space for spring/summer to make it an extension of your home. Add a comfortable sitting area to a porch or patio. Even a small space could accommodate two chairs and an ottoman to put your feet up (or for additional seating when necessary) Dress the seating group up with accent pillows and cushions and possibly a throw for cool evenings. Use outdoor fabrics which are sunlight and weather resistant that now come in a wide array of colors and patterns. A small accent table is the perfect place to display a beautiful plant/flower or even to set down a cool glass of lemonade. Incorporate candles and drapery as well as art work or sculpture. Use a beach tote to hold magazines or your latest paperback novel. Don't forget a planter that includes wonderful colorful plants/flowers that are both beautiful to look at and provide a wonderful aroma. A small water feature is a must to add a sense of serenity. Bring indoor plants outside for the summer to really cozy up a porch or patio. Also think about you exterior space at night by including accent lighting. Make the most of all your square footage in the spring/summer months.

During the winter months incorporate velvet, chenille, even faux fur for a warm luxurious space. Think of fall and winter as a time to add plenty of wonderful layers and textures. Add a throw to your sofa for additional texture and warmth. Add plenty of pattern and rich tones. Dress your windows with heavy chenille and velvet drapery. Add candles in spicy hues with wonderful fall scents. Fill a basket with birch logs by the fireplace. You cannot add too many pillows or layers to your winter bedding. Make your cocoon as cozy as possible.



Spring

Revamping your space for the season does not have to be a major investment of time or money. You can change a few key accents and get a whole new feel. Keep larger items such as your sofa or other large pieces more solid and neutral so you can simply change your accessories and/or drapery for a new look. Opt for fewer larger accessories to make a greater impact as opposed to numerous small knick knacks. Think of large display items such as hurricanes that could be used in different seasons by just

changing the contents (change seashells to dried fall leaves). This would also be a great time to rotate your art collection if that worked with the seasonal revamp. You can use the same base items and get a fresh look for the season or anytime. Look around your home and consider areas that could be altered each season. You may be willing to try something a little different for a just a season as opposed to living with it all year long. **RW MAG**



Winter