

How Merri Can Help!

The world of interior design has evolved rather quickly over the past 10 years. It no longer belongs to the realm of the super rich, the ultra sophisticated set or the owners of mega mansions. The 20 year movement toward “nesting” has created a flood of programs on various cable networks, a vast assortment of stores specializing in home furnishings and accessories and an internet full of design advice. Interior design has become accessible to everyone.

Has this glut of information made our lives easier? Have our homes become the beautiful spaces we imagine and can't wait to get home to? Or are we just overwhelmed because there are so many choices we don't know where to begin?

My goal as an interior designer is to help clients create spaces in their homes that reflect their taste and life style. Your house should mirror your personality. The ultimate compliment is a friend exclaiming, “This room is really you!”

With this column I will help you sort through the mounds of design fads and trends that we are bombarded with daily. I will suggest ideas and tips and answer your personal design questions. I will offer advice that will be useful in a variety of situations.

People assume good interior design has to be expensive. Certainly some things cost lots of money. Gutting a room and starting from scratch is more expensive than adding a fresh coat of paint and new accessories. Most projects fall somewhere in between. No matter how much or how little you spend, if you aren't happy with the results it isn't money well spent. I will help you avoid some common decorating mistakes.

Re-purposing or finding a new way to reuse an item is one of my favorite challenges. I love to shop Goodwill and flea markets for bargains. Nothing is more fun than taking a found object and creating something new out of it. Same with entertaining. Who says you have to buy a complete set of matching china to have a dinner party. I will show you how to set a festive table using finds from Goodwill. The party rule I live by: “It doesn't matter what's on the menu as long as the table setting is gorgeous”.

Send me your design questions and dilemmas at askmerri@goodwillsew.com. Together we will start decorating your house room by room and end up creating a home.