

the makeover

How stylist changed the room

- Moved the couch from the wall by the front door to the opposite wall, turning it at a slight angle. "Flow is very important," stylist Vivian Doyle says. "A couch by the door is a mistake. The room was dead; that sofa was killing things in here. Plus, furniture should never be pushed totally against a wall."

- Grouped two bright orange chairs from elsewhere in the room in the spot vacated by the couch. "The chairs are twins, they have to be together," she said.

- Placed one of two ceramic Moroccan planters between the chairs. She turned the planters into end tables by topping them with octagon-shaped pieces of glass custom-cut at a South Beach shop.

- Put a Tiffany-style lamp from another room atop the table between the chairs to create task lighting and add warmth.

- Put the other table next to the front door and topped it with an arrangement of flowers and a silver bowl.

CHEESY DOORMAT

- Ditched the doormat. "Cheesy," she declared. "All you need is a good, sturdy mat outside the door."

- Moved a painting of an English garden in vibrant blue, green and red colors from the dining room to a few inches above the couch. The dark wine poster it replaced was rehung in the dining room. The blue in the couch popped to life next to the art.

- Angled the Moroccan-style coffee table in the middle of the room and decorated its surface with a grouping of silver Indian finger bowls, small sandalwood elephant statues, a tall vase of flowers and a large platter filled with green limes, which played off the greens in the painting over the couch. "With a large table, it's important to create several different vignettes on it."

- Replaced a blue and orange Indian rug in the living room with a turquoise Indian rug from the dining room. The turquoise rug's triangle pattern complemented the shapes in the coffee table's metal grating. She rolled the rug out at an opposite angle from the coffee table, creating a crisscross pattern.

WOODEN CARVINGS

- Grouped wooden carvings in and around the fireplace and removed a Tiffany screen in front of it. She suggested painting the interior with brick red fireplace paint.

- Pulled two big pillows covered in bright orange and green Ferragamo scarves from an upstairs closet to perch on one side of the fireplace, next to an armless leather chair.

- Raised the large mirror above the fireplace a few inches and arranged silver Indian finger bowls in a line on top of one side of the mantle.

- Moved a MacKenzie-Childs bench in a corner to in front of the wet bar.

- Got rid of a large birdcage hanging in the same corner. Doyle isn't a feng shui expert, but she adheres to some of the art's principles. "Never have something heavy hanging over your head," she said.

- Moved an orange and yellow Indian silk painting of Ganesh, the Hindu elephant god, from the master bedroom to the wall left bare by the removal of the birdcage.

BEFORE



\$120

Two mid-size palm trees

\$150

Handymen to hang two big paintings and raise large mirror

PHOTOS BY CHUCK FADELY/HERALD STAFF

AFTER



\$598 Total



\$0

Lamp was moved from another room



\$117

Tall glass vase, flowers for two arrangements and limes for coffee table platter from Epicure Market, 1656 Alton Rd., Miami Beach



\$42

Three quilted Coco Beach pillows from Gamet Hill catalog www.gamethill.com

OTHER COSTS: Two smoked glass pieces from South Beach Glass for table tops, \$75; 16 rubber pads from Target to keep glass from sliding, \$3; two candles from Bed, Bath & Beyond, \$7.

QUICK TIPS

Suggestions from home stylist Vivian Doyle for a quick makeover:

- Plants warm up a room. When in doubt, add greenery.
- Don't be afraid to mix decorative objects, whether they're from different countries or price brackets. Doyle paired a silver Christofle bowl with a gravy boat from Target.
- Group objects that are the same size or shape for displays.
- Rely on a neutral palette for walls and furniture, adding color with art, carpet and drapes.
- Doyle favors Navajo White paint from Home Depot, which is a creamy beige with a hint of yellow for warmth. Avoid glossy paint for walls; it's "institutional."
- Contact Doyle at 786-351-6483 or vivian-doyle@aol.com.



ABOUT DOYLE

The stylist specializes in "re-designing" homes using the homeowner's belongings. She charges \$75 an hour. Doyle began fashioning friends' homes in the early 1980s, when she lived in Hong Kong and South Africa. She has lived in Miami for 13 years.

Makeover in 2 hours

*MAKEOVER, FROM 1H

corner, cutting the would-be rectangular room into a difficult shape.

"I've tried to make the fireplace the focal point, but it's just so odd; it cuts off too much space," said Rosie Andersen, a mortgage broker and real estate specialist.

When Doyle visited the house in early June, she immediately began shifting furniture, creating three sitting areas instead of one.

"It's all about angles and geometry," Doyle said. "We're trying to break up the space. ... The room was great before, but it lacked focus."

The Andersens have collected an impressive array of figurines, paintings, carvings and other souvenirs from their travels. Many of the objects are from India, where Don Andersen often

goes for his family business in orthopedic implants. Doyle whirled through the house, unearthing objects from cabinets and closets.

Old aspects of the room took on a new life with the India-influenced arrangement. The yellow walls became sunnier; dark shutters on the windows took on a British colonial look. A fanciful MacKenzie-Childs bench, which once seemed out of place with its patchwork upholstery, played into the Indian theme with its beaded fringe.

From beginning to end, the complete transformation took two weeks to allow for the purchase of new things.

"We got so many compliments about it feeling better in here and looking great," Rosie Andersen said. "Vivian has been a catalyst for positive change and renewal."

WANT YOUR OWN MAKEOVER?

Here's how it works:

Readers submit e-mails or letters describing the room they want to change. The Herald arranges for a designer or home stylist to visit and provide free advice. The reader shops for the new items and pays for any changes, which can range from a paint job and rug to new upholstery or furniture. The cost of changes cannot exceed \$1,000.

Want to participate? Send a description of your room to newhomes@herald.com or The Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132. Attn.: Home & Design/Makeovers. Include your name, address and phone number.

MAKEOVER magic

A home stylist transforms an Old Florida living room into an exotic haven in just two hours

BY JODI MAILANDER FARRELL
jmailander@herald.com

Some people take months, even years to decorate a room. Then there's home stylist Vivian Doyle, who can transform a place in a matter of hours.

Like a whirling designer dervish, Doyle whipped The Herald's first room makeover into shape in just two hours, turning an Old Florida living room in a 1938 Surfside house into exotic Indian chic.

Doyle specializes in working with a homeowner's existing possessions, rearranging furniture and bringing in art, rugs and ornamental items from other parts of the house.

Homeowners Don and Rosie Andersen spent \$598 on modest additions that included two mid-size palm trees and two octagon-shaped pieces of glass that converted two planters into end tables.

The Andersens share their two-story, three-bedroom house with three children — Alexander, 6; Donovan, 4, and Christina Rose, 1½ — as well as a cat and a parrot. The couple liked their living room's exposed wood beams and pitched ceiling when they moved in 10 years ago, but they had grown weary of it.

Complicating the matter: a fireplace wedged at an odd angle in one

•TURN TO MAKEOVER, 4H



ROOM MAKEOVER

This is the first in an occasional series of room makeovers for Herald readers. For information on how to participate and tips on how this one was accomplished, turn to 4H.



PHOTOS BY CHUCK FADELY/HERALD STAFF

HEAVY LIFTING: Above, Rosie Andersen carries out a bird cage and below, Rosie and designer Vivian Doyle move a chair into place.



REAL ESTATE

Mind your manners in house talk

BY RACHEL LEIBROCK
The Sacramento Bee

How much do you weigh? How old are you? Why are you still single? When are you having that baby?

How rude! Didn't your mother teach you never to ask such questions?

Well, these days, you can add a few more to the list: How much equity do you have in your house? What did you pay for it? What kind of loan did you get?

With the real estate market at a fever pitch, once socially taboo subjects such as your interest rate, down payment and how much your house really is worth have become the casual chatter of choice.

What would Miss Manners say?

•TURN TO HOUSE TALK, 6H

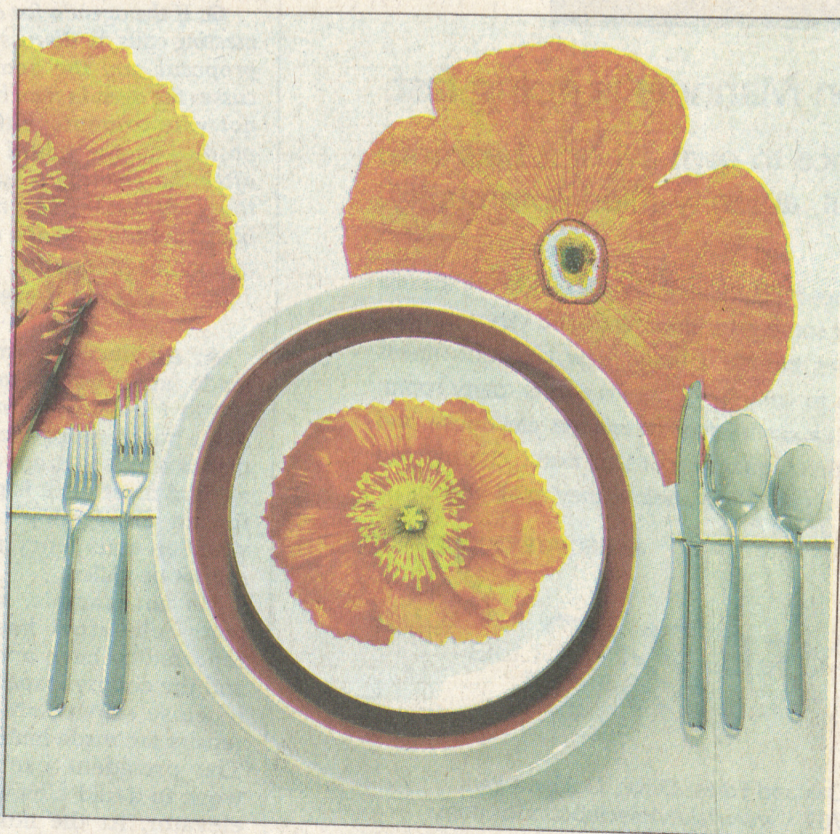


TABLE SETTING: A playful place setting is complemented by a bold runner (\$17.99).

TARGET

DESIGN

Fashion designer takes his colorful style into the home

BY ELAINE MARKOUTSAS
Universal Press

As much as he respects classical style, 43-year-old fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi doesn't mind raising an eyebrow or two. He is known for simple garments that often are as exuberant as their charming maker, laced with delightfully unexpected bold color, pattern, trims and combinations of fabric, like casual fleece with silk and wool.



MIZRAHI

The New York designer of haute couture made a daring segue to the masses two years ago with fashion for Target. So it came as no surprise when Target invited him to bring his stylish sizzle into the home this year.

Mizrahi's home launch, an ambi-

tious rollout of more than 200 products — bedding, bath and kitchen goods, tabletop items, furniture, rugs, lighting and accessories, including blankets, polka-dot bowls and reversible gingham and tattersall placemats for pets — has taken off.

His home collection features signature flowers on steroids in blazing bright colors that he describes as "a lot of fun."

"I don't want it taken too seriously," Mizrahi says. "I want to encourage people to surround themselves with fun, colorful things."

"It's all about color," agrees Charla Krupp, executive editor of Shop Etc., a shopping magazine published by Hearst that covers fashion, home and beauty. "Having his name attached adds an extra sexy zip." Krupp says his designs transcend

•TURN TO MIZRAHI, 6H



PLANT CLINIC

Gardener must transplant late-blooming ginger plant gingerly, 17H.

PET DOCTOR

Fourteen-year-old cat has bad breath, which may mean a trip to the vet, 21H.

CONDO LINE

Normal budgeted expenses can be paid without a board vote, 2H.

INSIDE