

A Dreamy Makeover on a Dime

What does it take for a so-so living room to soar? A single weekend, a few crafty ideas, and accessories under \$100!



The difference really is, as they say, in the details, whether that's a new lipstick, a touch of truffle oil, or in this case, pillows and paint. The living room above already had a lot going for it: a rough-hewn coffee table, a versatile sofa by Cisco Brothers, and a gorgeous ceramic garden stool. But apply one shopping trip's worth of accessories—all under \$100—and this just-okay space turns remarkably elegant. Homemade artwork and creative DIY lamps provide added personality, while refined textiles (including a classic ticking stripe for \$2 a yard) deliver real polish—resulting in an “after” that exudes rich style without pulling too tightly on the purse strings. —JOURDAN CROUCH



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANA CALLAGHER



1. A curated group of objects doesn't have to cost a fortune.

Who knew you could buy empty ostrich eggs online? Or that candlesticks double as perfect pedestals for them? (*Ostrich eggs, \$19 each; indianpoint ranch.com*)

2. Make a birdcage sing a different tune. Remove the cage's base, then outfit it with a basic lamp-cord kit and chain from the hardware store. The finishing touch: a chandelier shade. (*Two's Company cage, \$60; madisonavegifts.com*)

3. Look beyond a vintage piece's finish. Paint fixes a multitude of sins—like the bad veneer that originally topped this \$10 thrift-shop table. (*Benjamin Moore's Sea View, \$17.99 per quart; benjaminmoore.com for stores*)

4. Yes, you can create your own artwork! Start by downloading our feather template (countryliving.com/feather). Print, cut out, and tape the shape to a stretched 14"W x 18"H canvas, then paint around it. For subtlety's sake, we chose the same color as the wall, and completed the scene with white frames. (*Benjamin Moore's Smoke, \$40.99 per gallon; benjaminmoore.com for stores*)

5. Cushion the blow to your bottom line. Sure, throw pillows are quick-change agents; but rarely do fantastic ones run less than \$40—until now. (*Stripes, \$29.95; cb2.com. Yellow floral, \$32 for cover; potterybarn.com. For similar fern, \$29.99; yellow, \$39.99 for two; target.com. White floral, \$19 for cover; potterybarn.com*)

6. Practical rug seeks pretty mate. You can't go wrong with neutral sisal. You can, however, make it more right by layering a patterned carpet on top. (*Geometric rug, \$99.50; 5'W x 8'L; landsend.com*)



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7. Shop the kids' catalogs.

Pottery Barn's offspring, PB Teen, stocks some surprisingly sophisticated merch at junior prices—including this glass lamp that we filled with dictionary pages. Other fun possibilities: beach glass, branches, or vintage matchbooks. (\$99 with shade; pbteen.com)

8. Hit eBay for inexpensive fabric.

When we found this \$95 faux bois chair at an antiques mall, it sported hideous nubby teal material. But a search for ticking stripes yielded this \$2-per-yard fabric, so we could happily afford professional upholstery.

9. Or avoid reupholstering altogether.

This slipcovered seat got a facelift—fast—via a folded, lightweight cotton rug. In the background, a floral curtain keeps the pattern going. (Rug, \$58; 3'W x 5'L; williams-sonoma.com. Curtain, \$98 for 96"H panel; anthropologie.com)

10. How to conquer coffee table clutter:

The key to arranging a pleasing tableau atop a large table? Dividing the surface area into zones. Just check out how this \$5 flea-market tray magically allows a group of small items to read as a single object. (Feather bowls, from \$32; jaysonhomeandgarden.com)

11. The cheapest accessories are those you already own.

Grab a bowl from the kitchen to display photos and postcards. Stack books to form risers that elevate eye-catching objects. And call upon a vintage planter to double as a handy, and handsome, remote control caddy. (Bowl, \$18; westelm.com. Flower model, \$99; Peddler's Home Design, 800-391-4927)



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