

Home improvement

ROSIE ON THE HOUSE

Tips to give your home a consistent look from room to room. **H05**



Valley real estate

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THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC HOME.AZCENTRAL.COM

SECTION HO

Desert dwellers deal with special issues when it comes to their homes.

The luxury of nearly perpetual blue skies and sunshine allows for bolder, deeper wall colors. Wall niches, sliding glass doors, nondescript windows, cathedral ceilings and the yearning to turn our patios into outdoor living rooms — because we don't have to worry much about snow, rain and sunless days — create special challenges.

REDO RESOURCES

Where to go to tap talents of local pros for inspired [Arizona ideas](#)

BY SUSAN FELT | THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Instead of turning to HGTV and magazines, check out local resources to help uncover solutions, trends and materials tailored to Arizona weather, lifestyles and color schemes. There are such businesses as Look at My Fire that provide the means for having a decorative fire almost anywhere in your home or outdoors.

Consider these local resources if you are building a house or simply want to refresh a tired-looking bedroom.

Design centers

» The Home & Design Idea

Center is a candy store of home and gardening ideas.

Here's where you roam almost 40,000 square feet, looking at more than 125 vignettes by some of the Valley's top designers, remodelers, home-furnishing retailers, artists and craftsmen. These vignettes are like mini showrooms, where you can touch and see most everything from bathroom remodels to smokeless decorative-fire units. There are no salespeople. You are given a scanner when you enter and, if you are interested in learning more

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Local resources inspire redos

RESOURCES

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about a given product, business or service, you can scan a bar code at each vignette. When leaving the center, you are handed a cloth bag filled with brochures and contact information from those businesses, which range from cabinet refinishing to design services by such long-standing companies as Est Est Interior Design and Robb & Stucky. The local chapters of the American Society of Interior Designers and the International Furnishings and Design Association display vignettes there. The Arizona North Chapter of ASID presents periodic seminars. Also, builders, remodelers and craftsmen periodically present demonstra-

tions and classes.

Details: 19120 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale, 480-941-4663, azidecenter.com.

» The Home and Garden Expo centers are another source for ideas for new homes or remodels. The centers offer ideas on design, building and landscaping without salespeople.

Details: 13802 N. Scottsdale Road, No. 142, Scottsdale, 480-991-9383; 8606 W. Ludlow Drive, Peoria, 623-487-3343, homeandgardenexpo.com.

» Scottsdale Design Center is another showroom where builders, designers and landscapers have mini showrooms displaying their services and work.

Details: 15125 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale, 480-991-8247, scottsdalecenter.com.

» Other good spots for ideas, in addition to Home Depot and Lowe's, are retailers like Pottery Barn (potterybarn.com), Robb & Stucky (robbstucky.com) and Ikea (ikea.com/us/en/store/tempe) that offer one- to two-hour seminars on a variety of design topics, usually taught by interior designers or other design and building experts.

Shops and markets

» The Scottsdale Marketplace is where interior designers go with their clients for an accessory, piece of art or furniture that you'd have trouble finding elsewhere. Opened seven years ago by Chitti and Nancy Kang (he's from Thailand; she's from Michigan), this is a collection of 35 independent minishops, many of which are operated by interior designers. Tour the nooks and crannies for inspiration and accessories such as antique mercury candlesticks and spheres and framed artwork. There are dealers who specialize in vintage, antiques, art and collectibles in all styles and periods. Check out Treillage for classic lamps, Root candles and garden accessories.

Details: 6310 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, 480-368-5720.

» On the Veranda is arranged in a series of vignettes with furniture and accessories that the owners have collected on at least twice-yearly trips to Europe. There's a reproduction iron daybed and a small stone rabbit in one corner and a set of antique window frames used as a backdrop on an outdoor patio. This store is awash in ideas and objects.

Details: 4748 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix. ontheveranda.net.

» The inventory changes weekly, so consider putting the Tuesday Morning nearest you



PHOTOS BY DEIRDRE HAMILL/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Customers can glean interesting ideas for fireplaces and other decorative fire treatments for the home at a display by Look at My Fire at the Home & Design Idea Center in Scottsdale.

Browse Net for ideas

Go to houzz.com for the mother lode of home-design photos.

Adi Tatarko, CEO of Houzz Inc., estimates that there are more than 28,000 home-design photos, making it the largest database of home-design ideas on the Internet. Launched a year ago, this Web site is an idea book for anyone who loves seeing how to put color, texture, furniture and accessories together to make a lovely setting. You can browse by room, style and metro area, and create your own idea book to share with friends, family and your architect, interior designer and contractor, Tatarko advises. Design professionals — including those in the Phoenix area — are listed with links to Web sites and portfolios so you can see more of their work. Consumers can also share their decorating expertise and ask for design help from others.

Nationwide home-improvement giants like Home Depot and Lowe's have beefed up Internet sites, such as lowescreativeideas.com and homeimproverclub.com, that cater to DIYers and those wanting home-decorating ideas. Lowe's has how-to videos on YouTube (youtube.com/Lowes).

— Susan Felt



PHOTOS FROM HOUZZ.COM

Paint maker offers online samples, shipping

Paint is the first thing designers recommend as a quick, easy, inexpensive and effective way to freshen a room. To that end, the folks at Benjamin Moore are making it easier to test paint colors. You can go online and order sample bottles of paint and have it shipped to your door without leaving home. (Gallon sizes also are available for shipping.) If you order four or more of the 2-ounce color samples (available in 600 hues), shipping is free.

Benjamin Moore's Web site — benjaminmoore.com — allows you to upload a photograph of the room you want to paint and then sample how the room would look painted various colors.

The virtual room painting can be one of the first steps in narrowing down color options.

on a list of places that you periodically prowl. Among the dishes, casseroles, gourmet cookware, chef's knives and towels and bedding (a good source for deals on Italian bedding and hotel-quality towels), you might spy Waterford crystal lamps, hand-painted side tables, area rugs, vases, candles and other unusual accessories at a discount.

Details: tuesdaymorning.com for Valley locations.

» A store known more for its clothing than its home furnishings is T.J. Maxx. Like its better-brand clothing — BCBG and Calvin Klein — you can find a similar high-end collection of home accessories, from clocks and candlesticks to parson's chairs, bistro sets and area rugs. This is another place where inventory changes frequently.

Details: tjmaxx.com for Valley locations.

» Antiques malls and vintage shops such as Red Modern Furniture and Sage Antiques in Phoenix are places for inspiration and unusual furniture and accessories that can add personality to a room.

Details: Red Modern Furniture: 201 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. 602-256-9620, redmodernfurniture.com; Sage Antiques: 335 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix. 602-258-3033.

» Passport Imports carries furniture and accessories from India, in addition to woven (think seagrass) furniture from Indonesia. In between the handbags and clothes is a sizable collection of home furnishings that is worth the visit.

Details: 1206 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix. 602-327-3271, passportimports.com.

Fabric shops

You may have no idea how to thread a needle, but Calico Corners, with its discounted designer fabrics, is a place to see how a bolt of fabric can be fashioned into a stunning



A display by Blair Landscaping is among more than 125 by Valley design professionals at the 40,000-square-foot Home & Design Idea Center.

headboard, chaise longue or drapes. Check out their showrooms for inspiration.

Details: 6945 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, and 13802 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. calicocorners.com.

Home tours

» Take advantage of spring, when it's home-tour season in the Valley, and visit dozens of homes to steal ideas and inspiration. There is a style to suit nearly every taste or curiosity, from English Tudors and Craftsman bungalows in historical districts to Midcentury Modern gems and Spanish Colonial Revivals.

Details: home.azcentral.com and click on "Phoenix Home Tours" for schedule.

» A routine tour of model-home openings was once a reliable source of inspiration. New-home openings may have slowed, but the models remain a good source for design ideas. Check out the eight models at new-home builders like Robson Community's PebbleCreek

development in Goodyear.

Details: robson.com and click on "PebbleCreek."

Designers

One of the best sources for information and design suggestions is the pros. The economic downturn means that leading interior designers once too booked to consider smaller projects are now available, says interior designer Karen Wrigg, former president of the local ASID and the International Furnishings and Design Association chapters.

Designers' rates vary, but a consulting fee can cost \$75 an hour and higher. The average is nearer \$125 an hour. A minimum two-hour consultation can give broad recommendations. A more detailed design plan such as HGTV designer Candice Olson produces for her "Divine Design" show is more time-consuming and costlier, Wrigg says.

Hiring a designer can mean access to furniture, fabrics, wall and floor coverings and furnishings unavailable to most consumers, not to mention cost-saving design options and materials that most consumers are unaware are available.

Details: asidaznorth.org and ifda.com and click on "Chapters," "Arizona" for contact information on local design professionals.



BENJAMIN MOORE

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