

Inside Design With Nicole M. Skinner Graudons

Lighten Up..., Your Home With Spring Décor Accessories...,

Now that spring is finally here, it is time to do some lightening, brightening and yes... the traditional spring cleaning! Here are a few tips to help guide you from changing out your deep, warm, cozy, winter décor to transforming your space into a lighter, brighter, revived, fresh spring space. These changes can include anything from interior paint color, to throw pillows, curtains, rugs, towels and bedding. You can even switch up the red and green candles that were used at Christmas for some pastel colors. Think Easter!

The first thing you need to do after you decide to make some seasonal decorating changes, is to dig in and begin some basic, traditional Spring Cleaning. Remove any forgotten Autumn and Holiday decorations and pack them away. Pick one room to begin cleaning out and decorating first, so you don't overwhelm yourself and give up.

Continue to de-clutter, to create crisp, clear spaces. Remember... you want to have a clean, clear, shiny, palate before you begin your redecorating. Look for organizing solutions for your home. Any spot that is overcrowded or unorganized can drain your energies as it swallows objects and fill your life with clutter. A visit to a home store can provide products to contain clutter wherever it exists. Clean & polish surfaces of shelves and tabletops, end tables, windows, windowsills and countertops.

Soon we will be done using our Fireplaces and Wood Stoves for the season and can begin to sweep away ashes of winter fires and start fresh. Fill your firebox with silk plants, an arrangement of candles, or an attractive display of beautiful birch logs. Or cover opening with an attractive folding screen decouped with summer florals.

Do you have velvet drapes or a heavy corduroy sofa? Spring is the time to change them out for lighter looking alternatives. Remove the drapes and replace them with airy sheers. Slipcover the Sofa or Chairs with paler tones or florals. Sheer tablecloths, Sheer bedskirts, and pillows - all of these say "spring" louder than almost any other element. Look for plain, embroidered, or printed sheer designs that complement your interiors. Keep this one thought in mind..., refer to a fashion guide, you won't want to wear warm wool when the weather calls for cool cotton, so is the fashion in your home, calling for an update! You can add fresh, new



textures with candles artwork, new furniture, as well as, by adding small touches of interesting décor items such as shells and sand. Just by changing out your Throw Pillows from deep winter tones to fresh, springy patterns can give the most dramatic change to a room.

Warm, cozy area rugs look just right for the Winter season. But when the temperature rises it may be time to roll them up and replace them for the summer with sisal or cotton rugs in light, cool colors.

If your furniture is centered in front of a fireplace, think about ways to rearrange the look for summer. Change the focal point away from the mantel to a view of a garden, placing the conversation grouping to take advantage of the garden scene just outside.

Remove dusty silk flower arrangements from your rooms and store them away for a few months. Instead, bring in fresh green plants, flowering pots; Tulips, fragrant Hyacinth, or elegant orchids. These lively touches can breathe life into winter-weary spaces.

Take the time to rework your accessories and makeover your shelves. Clean winter dust off the shelves and begin to replace objects with an eye toward keeping the look light. Bring out your floral china or white ironstone, set up a collection of pitchers or glass and include plants

and picture frames as well. The nice thing about these smaller items, is that they can be rotated back in or out, but they don't need to be all out at once. By changing small things around periodically, you can give your home both a fresher look and a new appearance more often.

Spring living often moves out to a porch or deck, but even if your home does not have these amenities you can get the look and feel of a porch inside. Introduce a few garden chairs, accessories, and floral fabrics into a family room, for example. You'll get the feel of the outdoors every time you're in the room.

Bring the look of spring to your front door by cleaning up the area. Wash the door and windows and touch up the paint if needed. Hang a silk flower wreath on the front door too. If you do have a large porch you may also have room for pots of colorful spring flowers.

In conclusion, whether your spring project encompasses a total remodeling transformation or changing out the window treatments, furniture, throw pillow, floral accessories and more..., remember, whatever your spring decorating project is..., keep in mind..., to incorporate, clean, fresh, garden, color and nature into your project. And most of all have fun with it!

For more information, contact your home town Interior Designer, Nicole Skinner-Graudons of Designer Interiors of Ballston, #(518) 399-6240/883-4751, or e-mail: designinter@aol.com.

Designer Interiors of Ballston is participating in a Summer Fun Tradeshow at the Saratoga City Center, sponsored by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce. The Event is on Saturday, April 18th from 10:00am-6:00pm. There will be a variety of Vendors participating, along with Give-a-ways and more. It will be an event you won't want to miss!

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