

HOME decor AND RENOVATIONS

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Ten tips to an
**ENVIABLE
LAWN**

HOW TO CREATE AN
outdoor **OASIS**

Summerize your home
INSIDE & OUT

Lighten up *your space for spring*

by ERICA GELMAN



BRING OUT TEXTILES THAT FEEL LIGHT AND AIRY AS WELL, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT COLOUR BUT RATHER THE WHOLE SENTIMENT OF A NEW SEASON. EXCHANGE THE HEAVY WOOL FOR SOFT COTTON OR LIGHT LINEN.

colour and really make a significant statement - spring has arrived.

If budget is your top priority then look no further than your backyard, literally. Once spring has sprung, your backyard should become your major "shopping" centre. Nothing says warm weather better than fresh cut flowers. A flower arrangement can work anywhere; your foyer, your formal dining room, your kitchen table – anywhere. You cannot go wrong with a bundle of fresh hydrangeas set in a decorative vase or that glass bowl you may have laying around in your kitchen cabinets.

Just remember, when decorating with the seasons, think of ways to make the most effective change in the least expensive way. It's not about changing the entire room, it should be simple and carefree.



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WITH THE Milder temperatures upon us it's time to think of changing up your space for the warmer season ahead. You can freshen up a room by making just a few small changes.

Allow yourself to be inspired by the outdoors and take direction straight from nature; blue skies, green grass and bright sunlight. They are all such dynamic hues that by injecting them, even in small doses, it will automatically alter the feeling of your home. Bring out textiles that feel light and airy as well, it's not just about colour but rather the whole sentiment of a new season. Exchange the heavy wool for soft cotton or light linen. These fabrics are so versatile that the possibilities are endless – they come in solids, patterned and prints and can be used for anything from throws and pillows to drapery and bedding.

My design philosophy is a simple one; keep your background neutral and infuse colour in the foreground. For instance, if it's the living room you want to freshen up then think of your sofa as the focal point, it's presumably the most dominant piece of furniture in that space. I personally am not one to shy away from layering and when it comes to decorating, pillows are my go-to accessory. They are easily available,

easily interchangeable and the best way to transform a look without making a large investment. If you've kept your larger pieces neutral, it's much easier to incorporate colours and textures through accent pillows and playful accessories.

Another easy way to make an impact in your space and introduce your own personal style is by switching out your lamp shades. In general, the shade is the least expensive part of the lamp. Even if you've invested in vintage brass or modern lucid the lamp shade will only enhance your purchase and not take anything away. If you've had dark shades this winter and colour is something you are not comfortable with, then think about replacing them with a cream silk or ivory linen, for that light casual look. If you're more bold and daring, launch hits of bright