

"\$AVE A BUNDLE" ON HOME DECOR

You may be trying to save money, but you can still afford to add a splash of style to your home, as Libby Langdon, an interior designer and contributor to Better Homes and Gardens magazine (<http://www.bhg.com>), showed on ***The Early Show***.

She has completed numerous commercial and residential design projects all over the country, appears on HGTV's hit show, "Small Space, Big Style," and has a design book coming out this spring.

Asked about the current big home décor trends, Libby said that truly, the biggest trend of all is figuring out how to use what you already have on hand to create a new look! Sometimes, this means spending \$10 or \$20 to complete a project, but in general, the goal is to re-use, re-purpose, recycle.

On ***The Early Show***, she shared these pointers:

Fix Up Your Furniture

Plenty of people have a glass-topped table at home (or a glass-topped tray or other item). And plenty of people have paint chips stuffed in a drawer somewhere, leftover from that time you repainted the bedroom, the hall bath, etc. Put those colorful pieces of paper to work and give your table a whole new look by creating a paint chip mosaic under the glass top.

Libby suggests choosing three colors that are in your room, and then going with different shades of these colors. Also, using different sizes of paint chips will add some nice variety.

Inexpensive Artwork

Libby has three different ideas for jazzing up your walls.

First, instead of spending the money to buy a large mirror, look at Home Depot or other stores for mirrored tiles. You can buy a box of six 12x12 squares for \$18 - \$20. Libby showed how to arrange these over a fireplace mantle, couch, etc. The trick is to group them together: This gives you the same idea as a mirror, but at a fraction of the cost.

Next, try simply covering inexpensive artist canvases with pretty pieces of paper. Wrap the canvas like you would a gift, group with other canvases in complimentary colors/prints and hang on the wall.

Finally, create your own silhouettes using your own photos. Cut out a photo of your pet, for instance and flip it over so the white side is facing out. Glue to a dark, solid piece of paper and put in a frame.

Decorate with Nature

Don't toss those branches you pruned from your backyard tree/bush. Instead, spray paint them white and place them in a glass vase (weight the bottom of the vase with stones). You'll be surprised at what a stylish statement this will make in your room, particularly if placed against a solid-colored wall.

Grocery store flowers are cheap and cheerful, but sometimes the arrangements look pretty ugly! Separate the flowers by color, and then place these groupings in unusual containers like a silver toothbrush holder, glass sugar shaker, etc.

Buy Designer for Less

More and more high-end designers are now selling their wares at affordable stores like Target and K-Mart. For example, we'll have several pieces by Orla Kiely on set which are now available at Target. The most expensive item she showed was \$19.99.