

HOME IMPROVEMENTS ON THE CHEAP

For many of us, redesigning a room in home in this economy sounds out of the question. But interior design expert and former HGTV's 'Design On A Dime'" host Kristan Cunningham (www.kristancunningham.com) says not so! He visited *The Early Show* on Thursday, June 11, 2009 with before-and-after looks demonstrating some tips to give your bedroom a whole new look without busting the bank, showing how to make over a room for little or no money. From bookshelves to bed to windows, all can be re-done with existing material (plus a few inexpensive extras) to get a whole new look!:

The bed

- "Non-Cents!" Element shows that a few extra minutes and some thoughtful folding and fluffing can up the "luxe" factor for zero investment. (

- "A Buck or Two" Element will be the addition of a great throw pillow in a bright color to add a little zip. Small investment with huge impact in a bright Hermes' Orange color.

Window Treatments, Bring Those Curtains From Cheap to Chic!

"Non-Cents!" demo shows tab top curtains in space 1, looking a little drab and unsubstantial, mushed to the sides and allowing light through further implying an inexpensive look. But a little bit of time, and "some pop the top" action creates a magazine quality finished look.

"A Buck or Two" demo shows our tab top curtains with rings at the top and thermal liners added (these pay for themselves in energy savings, and block light and noise) both of which make store bought curtains look heavy and substantial, and completely custom- for approximately \$40)

Bookcase, Hide a Home Office and Create a Beautiful Vignette to Boot!

"Non-Cents!" demo shows that by arranging your books by color and varying the "ups and downs" of the stacks, you can turn chaos into charm- and you don't have to spend a dime.

"A Buck or Two" demo employs a quart of paint (like 8 bucks) to add visual interest to the back of the bookcase, and leather bound magazine subscriptions to provide visual harmony. A small investment in bins and baskets, as well as a custom homemade charging station creates a "home office" component for those limited on space.

High End Art out of Your Photo

"A Buck or Two" Idea Takes all of those frames you've got around the house and unifies the fabulous images they hold. Scan and tint photos- all in a blue tint, all in a sepia tint, etc. (this can be done on all computers via a free tool on picnik.com) Select frames with large mattes and matching frames for a gallery style installation. This frees up table and shelf space, and provides a personal approach to art- an expensive decor element that often goes unaddressed due to budget constraints.