

# Stepping Out of your Decorating Comfort Zone

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Are you tired of making the same safe decorating choices year after year? Do your surroundings inspire you and uplift your spirits daily? Do you scroll through Pinterest or Houzz and pin photos of rooms you'd love to have?

Why not take a step out of your decorating comfort zone? Think about taking your style and give it a fresh twist. Small changes make the journey easier. Start at your favorite decorating shop. Stroll through and notice what grabs your attention. Don't ask

yourself if it will go with your present décor. Just do it.

If you are a traditionalist, try out classic shapes that you are comfortable with, but in a fresh new color. Gourd shaped lamps are a great example. Classic shape, but pick a new color that attracts you.

Typographic prints make it easy to express yourself and update your décor. They are also affordable. Online you can find vendors that will customize prints, quotes and thoughts on canvas or wood. Keep the number of typographic prints to a minimum.

Just one quote to a room.

Updating wall art adds color and spice to your home. Replacing posters and other prints, framed in cheap silver or gold frames, is truly liberating. Look for art that speaks to you. Something that will inspire you each time you see it. If your budget allows, purchase original art. It's a personal delight, so express yourself!

Acrylic furniture is a safe way to switch up your traditional decorating scheme. Switch out your

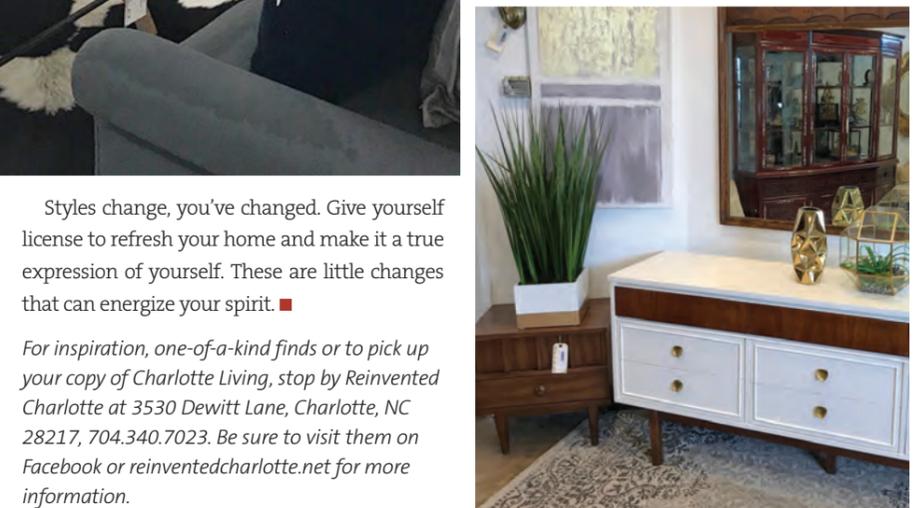
metal or wood bar stools or dining chairs for acrylic ones. Replace a side table with acrylic. It's a classic popular look that blends with any décor or color and makes the space live larger.

Foyers and back hallways are often forgotten but a great place to express your new personal decorating style. Add a splash of color with paint or wallpaper. Try a show stopping color or patterned runner on the stairs or down the hallway. Paint the risers and the handrail in a complementary color. Replace the foyer table with a bench. Look for one with unexpected legs, a bright color or fun fabric.



Lighting is an easy way to embrace a new style. Take the one chandelier that has become invisible to you or the one that you openly hate and replace it. Don't worry about the color of the finish. Mix it up. A soft gold chandelier in a kitchen with silver hardware, perfect. Industrial style lights with crystals are a wonderful way to bring a new chic look to a dated dining room or foyer.

Replace your desk chair. I'm always seeing one-of chairs at discount home décor stores that peak my interest and imagination. It's an affordable stroll out of your comfort zone.



Styles change, you've changed. Give yourself license to refresh your home and make it a true expression of yourself. These are little changes that can energize your spirit. ■

For inspiration, one-of-a-kind finds or to pick up your copy of Charlotte Living, stop by Reinvented Charlotte at 3530 Dewitt Lane, Charlotte, NC 28217, 704.340.7023. Be sure to visit them on Facebook or reinventedcharlotte.net for more information.