



LISA SCHMITZ is owner of Lisa Schmitz Interior Design in Kansas City. She lives in a 90-year-old Brookside fixer-upper with her husband and two kids. In her free time Lisa enjoys camping in the family's vintage Airstream, knitting, volunteering and imagining her own house completed.

TRANSFORM MODEST FURNITURE WITH PAINT

Change the color for a punchy new look

Paint is an inexpensive way to add a bold splash of color to a room or create a new look for something old. I'm not talking walls, but furniture, accessories and your favorite offbeat finds.

The best candidates for a paint makeover are objects that are not of the highest quality or collectible because you don't have to worry about ruining them or reducing their value.

Make a statement with red

Recently as part of a whole-house updating project, I was able to reuse the homeowner's dining chairs. The chairs had faux carved frames resembling branches and woven rattan backs. I realized the chairs would be wonderful painted shiny bright red. We recovered the seat cushions in a modern, graphic fuchsia and red print. Now the chairs stand out against the muted blue walls and the black dining room table.

The rest of the home's interior is white, with accents of red sprinkled throughout. We continued this theme by taking an existing chandelier from her entry and painting it bright red — crystals and all! So what had been an outdated, inexpensive source of light is now a showpiece as you walk in the front door.

Paint can accent natural wood

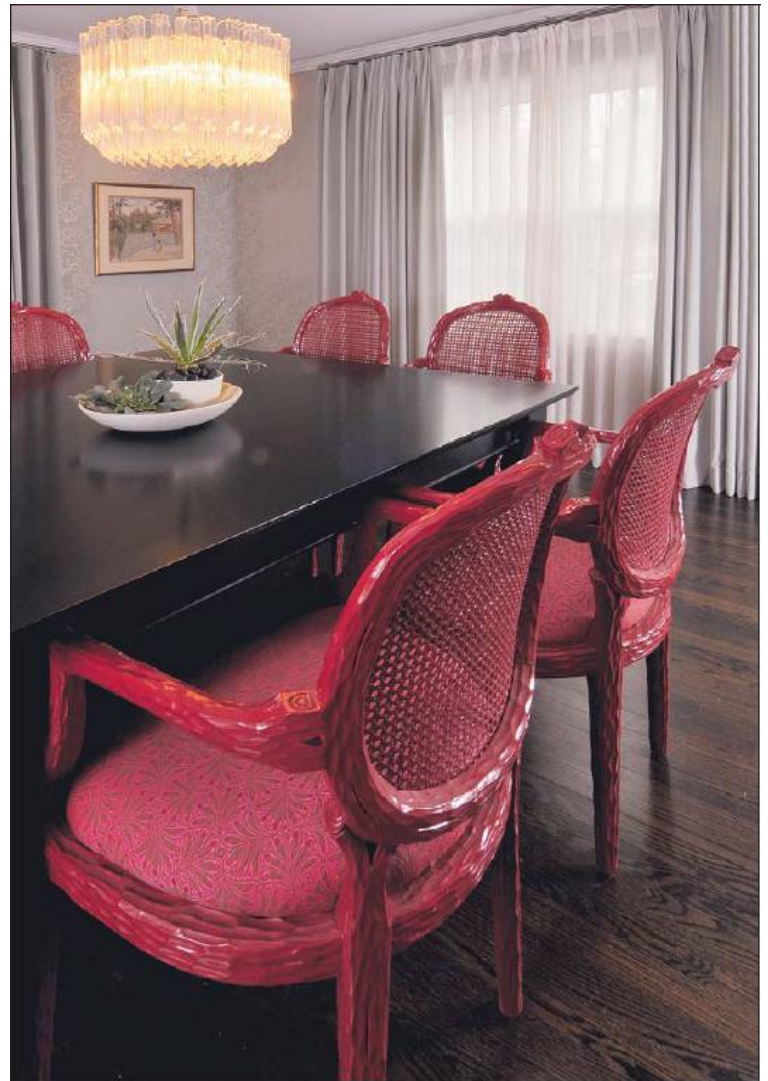
Once, for my daughter's room, I found a long, low dresser with beautiful walnut doors and solid walnut drawer pulls. But the shell was not well-made, and rather damaged.

After some spackle, prep and a coat of white paint for the shell, the \$90 estate sale find now looks like a \$1,600 piece from Netto (www.nettocollection.com). The paint gives the dresser an updated look without appearing too heavy against the room's pink walls, and the unpainted walnut doors and drawer pulls look better than before, juxtaposed against the sleek white.

New look for an ugly lamp

I recently found a '50s style pink-and-black lamp just the right proportion to place on the dresser. I think it will look wonderful painted grass green to complement the other colors in the room. Next I hope to paint a dilapidated vanity with side mirrors. I wonder if I can convince her to go with fuchsia? It's a good idea to paint different elements in a room different colors — either contrasting colors or different hues in one color family — rather than having everything match.

Reach Lisa Schmitz at lisaschmitz@kc.rr.com.



ROY INMAN | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

A coat of shiny red paint took inexpensive chairs from ho-hum to high style. The red contrasts nicely with the black table and muted blue walls.