

## Redoing Instead of Renewing

When it comes to renovating or redecorating, it's likely more practical to address one room at a time. Of course, you'll need to start by deciding whether there are any design features you wish to carry out into a hallway or throughout your home. Then, you can focus on each room as an individual project. Imagine each one as an empty space and consider what would make that room its most useful and enjoyable. Next, identify the basic features that deserve special attention.

You may have irregular walls or original wood trim lying undercover after years of treatment or neglect, just waiting for you to expose it as you create a significant transformation into the room you envision. And, as you're considering whether that room requires a coat of paint or wallpaper for a facelift, look beyond its walls. Consider the furnishings or fixtures you have throughout your



home, and how they might contribute in a new role in your reimagined room. For example, stripping, reupholstering or repainting furniture could help turn a tired old piece into a fresh centre piece for your new space.



## Easy-Care Plants, Indoors & Outside

You don't need to have a proverbial green thumb to enjoy plant life within your home, as well as around your outdoor spaces. Simply by choosing specific hardy species, you can enjoy nature's gifts from season to season with little effort. Here are a few suggestions to help you get started:

**Indoors:** If you like larger leafy plants, consider a monstera or sansevieria. Also consider philodendrons as a great alternative that can dangle in tangles from the pot or off shelves. Smaller cacti are also an easy option – or for added enjoyment, experiment from scratch by germinating fresh herbs.

**Outdoors:** Container plants can live up any balcony or patio through several seasons. They give you the freedom to change your arrangements at will, according to your space and the time of year. Think geraniums, petunias, impatiens and begonias for colour, or set up stakes for taller climbers.

Once you've looked into the plants that appeal to your eye – and your lifestyle – be sure to do some quick research that will help you watch for signs that they are healthy or that they are in need of a slight change in their care (e.g., sunlight, water schedule, etc.).

## Spring Cleaning Means Germ Cleaning

Ever since "pandemic" became a household word, spring cleaning has taken on a greater focus towards reducing or eliminating household germs. Think first about removing dust and reducing clutter, and then about cleaning to remove surface dirt and grime. These are essential steps before you can sanitize (removing germs from surfaces) and disinfect (actually killing and/or eliminating bacteria and viruses). To be most effective in the prevention of spreading germs, start with an attack plan for damp areas in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry room, where microorganisms are most likely to thrive.

Pay particular attention to tile joints, grout lines and caulking where mould can grow, making a note to follow up where repair is needed. Also, don't overlook areas where food is stored, such as a pantry, or where food is often spilled, such as alongside your oven and cooktop. By being thorough, you'll avoid attracting unwanted house guests like insects or rodents. Finally, make sure you frequently sanitize any items touched by many hands on a regular basis, especially in the dining room, entertainment centre or exercise area, where bacteria can easily spread.

