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Des Moines



**in
2012**

Rockin' Hotspots • Eco Homes • Talking Art

PROJECT LIVING ROOM

by Bridget Nelson
photography by Erin Delahanty

Two Valley Junction-based interior decorators give tips to upgrade your living room from drab to fab.

SPICE UP BORING FLOORS. Dull carpets can sink the mood of any room. The solution? rug. Sue Kenny of S.A. Kenny Interiors suggests investing in high-quality area rug in classic designs and colors. If your tastes change often, pick up a couple of low-cost, funky rugs from a large retailer to maximize your options.



LIGHTEN UP. Lighting can make or break a room. Too much or too little affects the room's feel. Scott Dean, principal designer for Creative Home Consulting, uses this quick rule: Every room should have three sources of light. If you already have a light fixture, simply add two lamps.

HANG EYE-LEVEL ART. How high artwork is hung can make a difference to the viewer. "Artwork is meant to be enjoyed from standing and sitting," Dean says. A general rule that works from both vantage points is to hang artwork two-thirds up the wall.



MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP.

If clutter consumes your living room, heed Kenny's advice: "Take out every accessory—pictures, lamps, vases, etc.—and start over. Really look at what you have." You may decide to arrange the pieces differently or discover every knickknack you own doesn't need to be on display.

ADD LIFE WITH GREENERY. Plants bring a boost of color to a room, even if you want to cheat and buy fake ones. "A small amount of greenery can make a room feel fresh and vibrant," Dean says. (Check out page 44 to see which plants match your personality.) **102**



PAM WOODS

interview and photography by Leah Ward

During her 21 years in the corporate world, Pam Woods discovered she had a knack for organization. Now, as president and founder of SmartWorklife Solutions in West Des Moines, this organization guru teaches the rest of us how to simplify and stay sane.

So what is it you do?

I help people who struggle with clutter and chaos, whether it is at the office, at home, or in life. My expertise is in organizing physical things or time management.

What does a typical day look like for you?

Days vary a lot. Some days I'm on the phone all day. Other times, I will do organizing on-site with the client. Every day is different, and I love that variety.

How do you keep yourself organized?

I think the key is not to think of organization as something separate from what you already do; it becomes a part of each thing you do. It's not a project, it's a lifestyle. I always feel ready by taking things as they come at me and never procrastinating.

What is your best organizing tip?

Give everything a home, and put everything back in its place when you're done. If it doesn't have a home, it's homeless.

What about time management?

Get a calendar and make it your most trusted friend. Don't carry stuff around in your head—that's mental clutter, and it causes stress.

Is there something you still wish to achieve?

I want to have an impact on more people. **103**