



Falling in Love Again

I was an odd college kid. While everyone else was out partying, I was at home cooking. My house was the go to place when people were hungry. Whenever my family asked me what I wanted for my birthday or Christmas, my list included things like dishes, knives or cookware. We spent our holidays going to antique stores where I could find treasures for my home.

By the time I graduated from college and got a job, I was itching to create my own space, free from my former roommate's bad design decisions and 1970s furniture (I did love the gold velvet couch!). My boyfriend and I very slowly acquired furniture that was well designed and built to last, but met both of our design sensibilities.

Settling on mid-century design with a few French Victorian pieces mixed in, we set up house. Once the furniture was in place, I found a beautiful rug and pillows for the couch, framed and hung my art, and even managed to put together some unique lighting, including a vintage dress form turned industrial light. Now and then I'd pick something up from my

travels or find a great piece of art, but everything else stayed the same. I thought I was done, but I was wrong.

You get used to the state of your space. Ignoring the things that are broken or not quite clean. Not seeing what you pass every day. Then, one day, you decide to throw it all out and start again, even though you don't really know why. Changing everything isn't just expensive; it's unnecessary. If there is a room you avoid, the answer isn't starting over; it's intentional attention (say that ten times really fast!). Try rearranging the furniture, or swapping out the art from one room to another. Even small changes will draw you in to enjoy your creative handiwork.

Recently, I swapped my living room and dining room, and when I did so, I was able to move a piece of furniture against a wall instead of having it against the window it used to block. The payoff? I've started using the dining room more, enjoying my window sill full of plants.

If moving entire rooms feels labor intensive, focus on one room and redecorate it with the unused things around your house—an antique vase put away in a



cabinet, a drawer of family photos, a fur-covered pouf you had to have but have no idea what to do with. Unlike going out shopping for new furniture or accessories, using what you already have at home is a low-stress way to have fun and play around with decorating your home.

continued on next page





I find a new/old favorite and relive the memories associated with it as I decide where its next home will be. Moving things around gives me a fresh perspective, which makes me fall in love with my home all over again. Trust me, that rarely sat on pouf will get used more often in a place it can be use more. Mine recently became a seat for my bathroom vanity.

Kandy Christenson is a creator, maker, dreamer, photographer, traveler and Certified Interior Decorator. She believes design should be sustainable and transformative. Each space she designs is unique because she uses upcycled, handmade, vintage and local materials. She can be found trying out new ideas at meanderingdesign.com.

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Ways To Re-Love Your Rooms

1

Open Your Eyes.

Pick a corner you don't normally sit in and hang out for a while. Look at the room with fresh eyes. Make a list of things you don't "love." If they don't have a specific function in the room, where else could you put them? If they're broken or in disrepair, feel free to tell them good-bye!

2

Move It and Groove It.

The most common furniture placement is up against the wall, which isn't always the most interesting option. Try flipping the room around or angling the furniture. Who says the couch has to face the fireplace anyway?

3

Land with Purpose.

Has your dining room table become a dumping ground for bags and mail? You need a landing zone. Move a chair next to the door you use most often and stash stuff there. You'll find yourself using that dining table a lot more when it's clear!

4

Repurpose and Reuse.

When you're about to purchase something new for the home, look around for items that can fulfill the same purpose. A chipped bowl can hold potted plants, and jam jars make excellent candle holders. Bonus points if you reuse something you would have thrown away!

5

Play with It.

Don't worry about perfection. Do something unusual and bold—pillows on the floor; unmatched curtains; a "hall" table in the office... Your home: your rules.