

RESTYLE INTERIORS



DIY Room Makeover Kit

Furniture Arranging and Much More!

[Using what you already have]

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Welcome Inspiring Decorator!

Are you one of those people who think they have absolutely no design sense?

Don't fret!

Your Room Makeover magic is here!

Watch this video to get your creative juices flowing.



Let me emphasize, YOU are not alone in this process. Feel free to reach out to me if you hit a snag!

[Email your Specific Design question](#), and I will respond in a timely manner.

Please attach corresponding photo(s) describing your question.

Your new Room Makeover is just steps away! Here's what you'll be doing-

- Identify architectural features in your space
- Place your furniture to compliment your room
- Balance the lighting in your room
- Hang artwork and mirrors like a pro

Setting up a room properly is actually a lot of fun as long as you follow the design rules. We will call them the *10 Commandments of Good Design*.

Though Shalt Not:

1. Place all the furniture against the walls- Floating the furniture inside the perimeter of the room actually creates the illusion of more space, and creates comfortable conversation areas.
2. Ignore architectural features- Identify the features that are "built in" to your space first. These are areas of interest that you want to bring attention to.
3. Forget the focal point- Every room will have a focal point, even if you need to create one using artwork, accessories or furniture placement.
4. Position furniture too far apart- Your furniture should be spaced in a way that connects the pieces together, visually.
5. Rely on overhead lighting- Each area in the room should be well lit using a combination of ambient, task and accent lighting.
6. Hang a mirror improperly- Yes, there is a right and wrong way to hang a mirror! Hang a mirror(s) where it will compliment your space by reflecting a great view, bounce off a natural light source, or visually open up the space.

7. Hang artwork too high- Art is most comfortably viewed at eye level. And there should be a visual connection between the artwork and the furnishings around the art.
8. Avoid tactile interest- Adding a mixture of textures is absolutely necessary for visual appeal and adding depth to a room.
9. Create a sterile environment- Your room should reflect your individual personality and interests. Look for emerging themes or collections in your artwork and accessories.
10. Scale the room improperly- Notice how objects interact with each other and how they “fit” in your space. Pay close attention to the vertical and horizontal balance in your overall room. Avoid having too many heavy pieces clustered together.

Let's Get Started!

I recommend you first purchase a set of furniture glides. They are available online and also at most major big box stores and chain retailers. Look for a pack containing a minimum set of 4 glides for carpeted floors and 4 glides for hard surface floors. These glides are your best friends when it comes to moving your furniture around.

SMART GLIDES <http://amzn.to/2yl4i5F>



Step 1 – Dismantle the Room

First remove all the accessories from your space. This means you are clearing off all the furniture surfaces. Take this opportunity to de-clutter your space since you will only be putting back the items that compliment your new design. Place your items out of the way in an adjacent area so you can access them later. Keep the items you aren't bringing back separate from what you think you will be using. This saves you time later.

Suggestion: create a donation box for unwanted items and another box for questionable pieces.

Next, remove all the artwork (if possible) from the wall. If something is permanently affixed to the wall, leave it alone, as it may be easier to work around it. Take out any table lamps and floor lamps and move them off to the side out of the way. Remove any light-weight furniture pieces like an ottoman, accent tables, or small chairs from your space leaving only the largest pieces.

Now, get your furniture glides and place them under the feet or legs of your heavy items by raising each corner slightly, just enough to fit the glide under the leg. If it is a heavy bookcase you may need someone to slightly tip the bookcase to one side as you slide the glides under the piece, and then do the same to the opposite side.

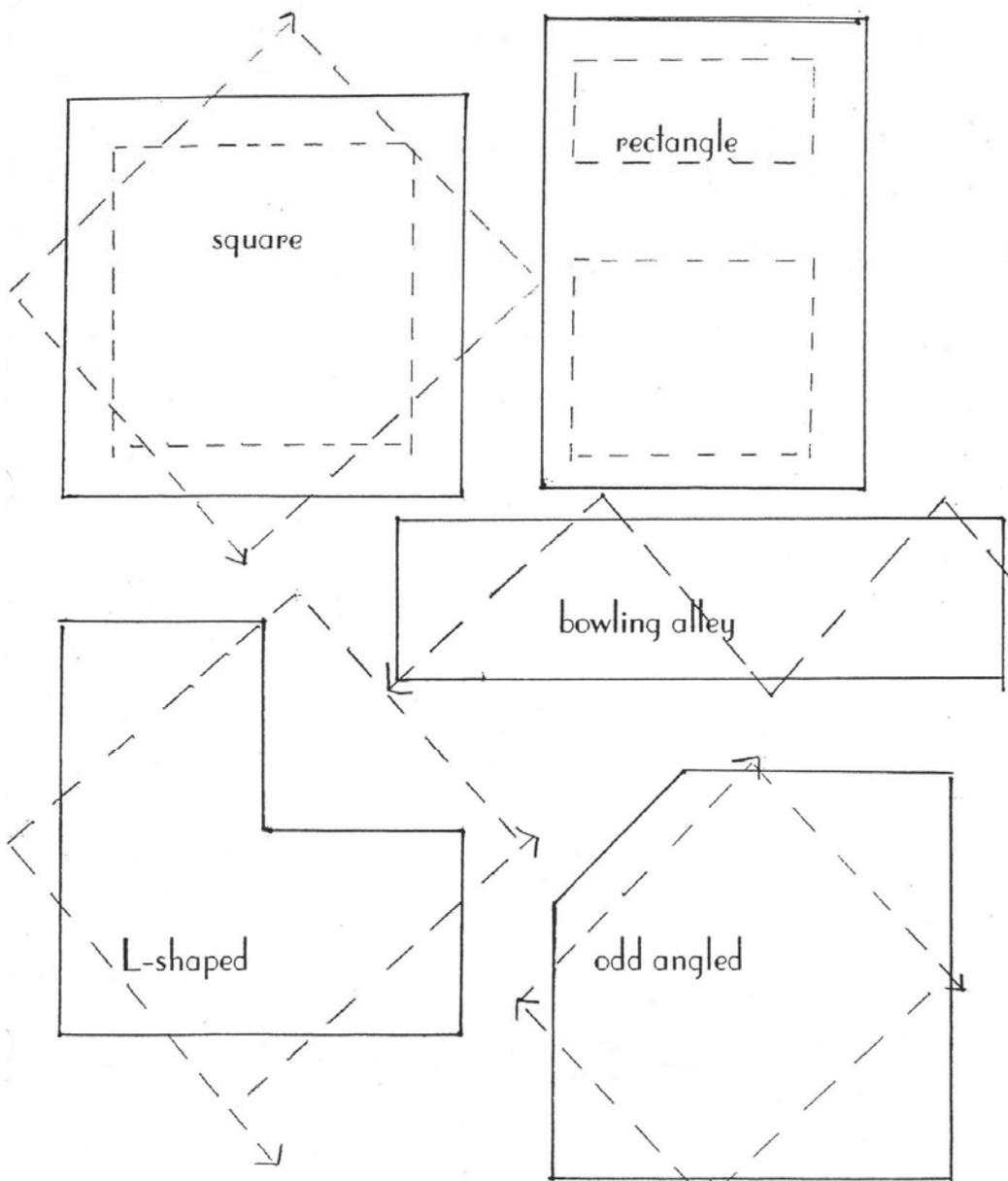
Vacuum the carpet or area rug if you have one and roll it up, placing it outside the space. Move the remaining furniture (should be just your sofa or sectional) to either the center of the space or off in a corner so you can get a clear view of the almost vacant room.

Step 2 – Study the room’s Architecture and Establish a Focal Point

Look at your room - the floor, the walls, and the ceiling. Your space will fall into one of these 5 categories:

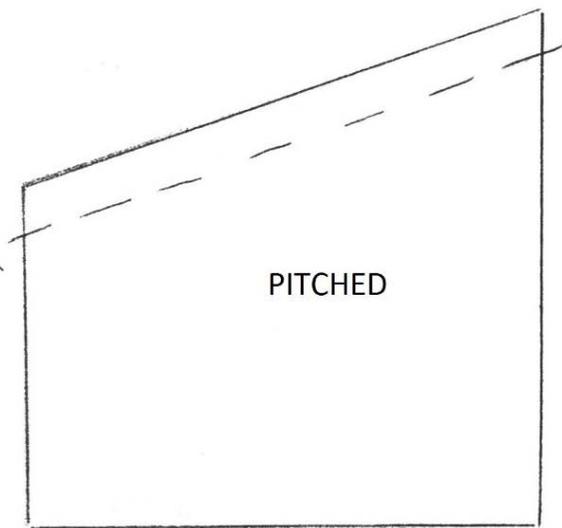
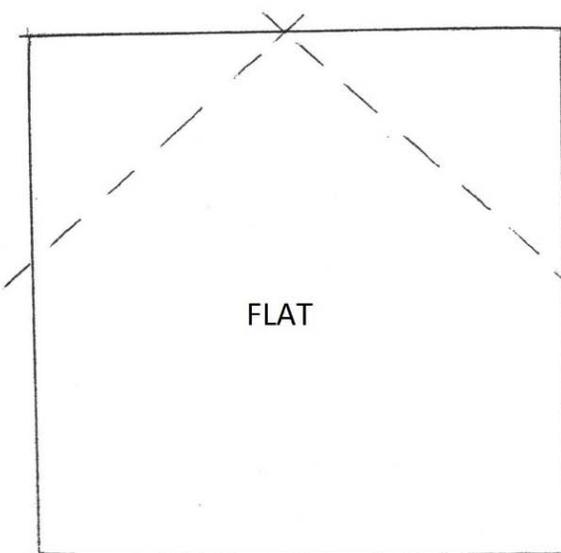
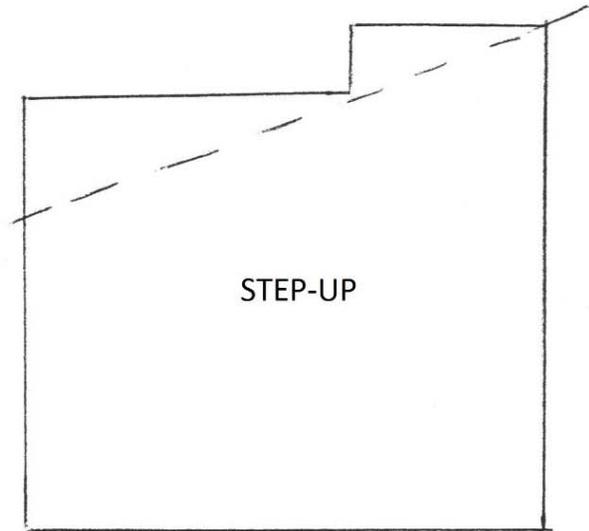
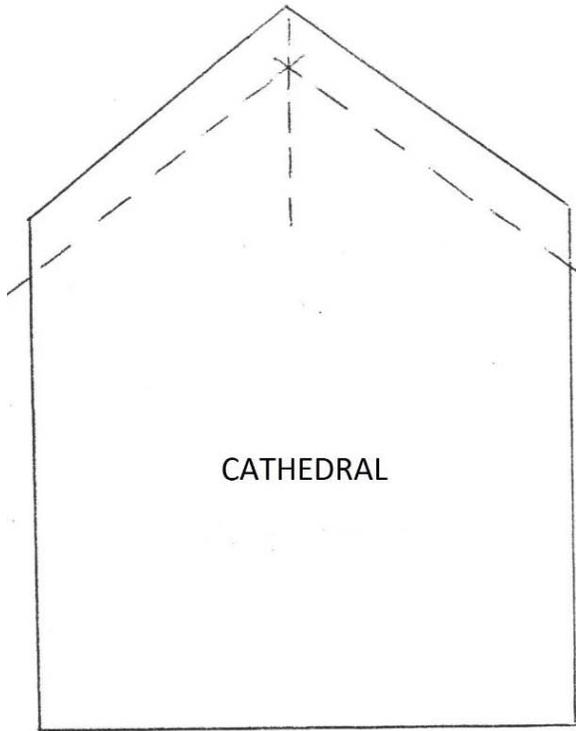
- L-Shape Square Rectangle
- Bowling Alley Odd Angled

WHAT IS THE FLOOR SHAPE



Now determine the wall and ceiling elevation

WHAT SHAPE IS THE CEILING



Have you identified the shape of your room? GREAT!

Look around the room to see if there are any built-in architectural features. If you have an odd wall angle or perhaps a corner fireplace, I suggest you play off (match) that architectural angle with your furniture grouping. By selecting the main architectural feature you are creating the focal point for your room.

Focal Point

The focal point is the feature that is most predominant in your space. What draws your attention the most? Is it a fireplace, or a large picture window, or maybe you have built-in shelving or a grand staircase. For some of you the television or entertainment center can be the focal point. Your main furniture grouping will always be located around your focal point. If no focal point comes to your attention, don't worry we will create one very soon!

Traffic Flow

Look at your space and notice where the room openings or doors are. How do you get from point A to point B. This is called establishing a traffic pattern. We want to avoid placing any furniture in the way of our traffic pattern, as it would be like parking a car in front of the main entrance to a parking lot. It would be very difficult to get in with something large blocking your way! Identify what paths you would like to keep clear.

Step 3 - Creating a Floor Plan | Furniture Placement

Creating a floor plan is simple! We have our furniture pieces and we know the size of the room. So, before you start moving anything back, have some painters tape in hand and mark off the spot where you want the main furniture piece to go. Measure the length of your sofa or sectional and tape off the area on your floor. You may want to make a few adjustments before finalizing your move. Make sure you are not blocking your traffic flow! Follow this link to see how one living room got a complete makeover using what the homeowner already had.

Where am I going to put the sofa?

There are several ways to create the primary conversation area in your room. If you have a sofa, try placing it directly opposite the fireplace, or if you have 2 sofas, try placing them facing each other, on either side of the fireplace. Was your fireplace on an angle? Then your sofa should be on an angle too. Reference the shape of your room again, so when you place that first piece of furniture you are complimenting both your focal point and the architectural shape of your room. Room photo examples are listed below.

In square shaped rooms and bowling alley (long and skinny) rooms angling the furniture is more visually interesting. In a rectangular room, create two different seating areas, one larger than the other. That way you are using the entire space. In an L-Shape room you will usually have a dining area in the smaller space, and a conversation setting in the larger space. In all cases, avoid placing furniture against the walls when possible.

Helpful tips when placing the sofa:

- Take your cue from the architecture and the angles of your room.
- Remember to consider traffic patterns.
- Move furniture away from walls whenever possible. Consider placing a console table behind the sofa to extend it away from the wall.
- If your sectional is too large (in scale) try separating the pieces in your grouping to keep your room in balance.
- When you have a sofa and a loveseat, place them in an "L" with arms close. If you can, move your loveseat to another room and substitute with 2 chairs, you will have many more placement options.

Q: What if I don't have a focal point, you may ask? A: You can create one!

I suggest using the most prominent feature, like a big window or your entertainment center. Place the sofa opposite that focal point then create the conversation area. Also consider ceiling height. If you have a cathedral ceiling, putting the foundation furniture piece near the center of the room helps with balance and symmetry of the space. Likewise, if your ceiling is pitched (higher on one end) place your foundation piece towards the slant to balance off the higher side of the ceiling.

Creating the conversation area

Start by placing your other seating pieces with the sofa. These are your chairs, and/or ottoman(s). You will want all the furniture to be spaced comfortably apart but not so far that they look detached from the arrangement. Add the coffee table and end tables leaving about a 12 – 15 inch space from the coffee table to the furniture. Step back and see if everything is in balance. Even small tweaks can make a big difference! If you have hard surface floors, you may want to add an area rug to anchor the conversation area. This helps with acoustics too. If you have wall to wall carpet, I don't recommend an area rug unless it is relatively thin so as not to create a tripping hazard. On hard surface floors, sometimes layering 2 area rugs can add interest and be very stylish. Remember scale when selecting your pieces. Try to maintain a similar "weight" in your furniture grouping. For example, an over-sized sofa next to a small chair will look off balance. You can always shop the other areas of your home if you need to find an alternate piece of furniture! You can also separate bookcases if you need to open up a space that feels too "heavy". Don't forget that you can repurpose furniture pieces too. That ottoman can be a coffee table, or that pretty pedestal can also stand in as an end table. Get creative!!

Step 4 – Lighting and Artwork Placement

Lighting is certainly one of the most critical, and often neglected, elements to an outstanding redesign. Good lighting sets a mood, confirms the room's function, and can instantly warm up a space like no other element.

We sometimes take lighting for granted. It is something that exists at the flip of a switch, but do we pay attention to exactly what that switch is turning on? Usually not! A well-done room makeover really does hinge on a well-done lighting scheme. Fear not, you will be executing your lighting plan like a pro by applying the following technique.

The Lighting Triangle

The lighting triangle is the golden rule of lighting and used by all designers. To create a great atmosphere in a room you should combine several light sources and space these sources evenly within the room, roughly forming a triangle. If you have overhead lighting then you already have general illumination. If not, consider a floor lamp or two to accomplish the same job. Your secondary light source is more task oriented. This includes table lamps for the end tables or a desk lamp if your room is an office. Finally every room needs accent lighting. If you have a bookcase, tuck a small low-watt lamp on the shelf. If you have a plant in the corner of your room, place an up-light on the floor behind it to cast a beautiful shadow towards the ceiling. If you have a fireplace, consider a pairing of candlesticks on the mantle, etc. There should be NO dark corners or spaces in your room when your lighting placement is complete.

Hanging Artwork

It is a known fact that many of you hang your artwork too high. Before you hang anything, I suggest you bring in your favorite selections and lean them against the wall or on the furniture in the location where you want them hung. When you have all the artwork in the room, then you can begin hanging. Always remember that art is usually hung at eye level (about 60 inches off the floor). If the artwork is above a sofa, keep the space between the top of the sofa and bottom of the frame around 8 inches. You want to make sure that the art is visually connected to the furniture below it.

If you want to hang a collage of art, I suggest you lay it out flat on your floor first so you can position the pieces the way you want. Then take a picture of the layout with your cell phone so you can refer back to what you created. When you begin hanging your grouping, **START IN THE MIDDLE**. Hang the piece that was in the center of your collage first, then work your way out. This is especially helpful when you are trying to line up the grouping above furniture or just trying to create symmetry on your wall.

Hanging Mirrors

Mirrors can be tricky, so please follow these guidelines. Mirrors should only be hung intentionally, not just as art. For instance a mirror can open up a visually cramped space or it can reflect a great view from a picture window, or maybe a piece of art from a facing wall. Mirrors are great at reflecting natural light as well. Try to avoid hanging a mirror where it is reflecting the ceiling or a blank wall.

Hang-O-Matic <http://amzn.to/2fCpdSZ>
ART HANGING TOOL



Step 5 – Plants and Accessories

Your final step is to fill in the empty spaces in your room, without going over-board! You already de-cluttered your space when we started this process, so try to maintain that open, relaxed feeling as you accessorize your new room. Rule of thumb, combining objects in odd numbered groups works very well visually. Also, when you are scanning over all the items you removed from your room initially, try to only bring back those items that have a common theme. Use similar colors, or try pairing down a large collection and only use choice pieces. You can always swap them out periodically to change up the look. Be very selective in placing your accessories. Try creating compositions that vary in height, high to low. Start with the theory of less is more. If you feel that there are too many open spaces, you can always fill in later. One tip the pros use is to place your accessory grouping on a tray. This works especially well on a coffee table or ottoman. Don't forget to add texture when you are embellishing your space. Pillows, throws, wood artifacts and glass can be combined for a striking look.

No room is ever complete without a little plant life. Live plants (or live looking) plants really add that natural touch to your room. If you are using faux plants, succulents are a great choice as they look very real. When using live plants always place a dish or tray under them to protect your furniture and your floor. Changing out your plants from time to time provides a fresh look to your space with minimal effort.

Your room looks amazing!!

Sit down, relax and give yourself a round of applause for a job well done.

ROOM DESIGN PHOTOS
[MORE PHOTOS IN SANDY'S PORTFOLIO HERE](#)



Using angles in square rooms adds visual interest and opens up the space





A rectangular room separated by function



Secondary seating area



Artwork installation compliments the high ceiling, and feels visually connected to the sofa below



Accessorizing a fireplace mantle



Show your staircase landing some Love!

When a bookcase becomes a room divider!



www.ReStyleInteriors.net

Yes, you can place a desk behind the sofa, in a multi-functional room



Embrace that pitched ceiling

Focal Point, Done!



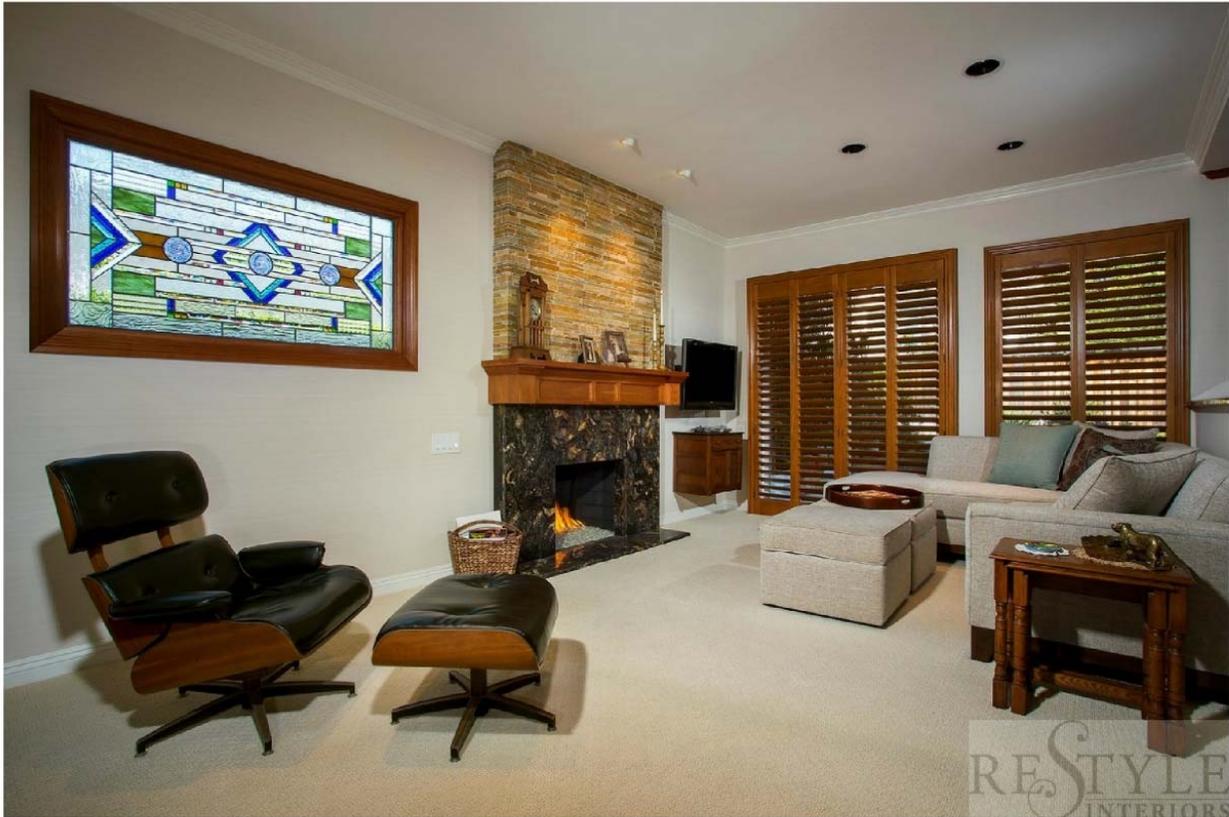
Accessorizing a built-in cabinet



Area rug anchors furniture setting in this bowling alley shaped room and the artwork does the talking!



Dining room connects visually with complimenting colors and texture



Focal Point, check!
Balance & scale, check!
Color & texture, check!



Texture warms up even the most minimal modern interiors!



Mirror installation that makes the space!

I truly hope this guide helped you achieve your DIY Room Makeover goal. Please feel free to email me photos of your finished room. ***Your design may be chosen to be shared on my social media sites.***

If you would like to learn more about DIY decorating, check out my [eBook](#) "Discover Your Unique Décor Style, *How to decorate Your Space with Confidence*"

Want access to my blog for more inspiring decorating ideas? [Click here](#) to sign up for my email list!



Sandy's BIO

Delivering your design dreams since 2004, Sandy Anchondo creates comfortable and stylish interiors that reflect the unique lifestyle of each client. She takes time to understand her client's design aesthetic and incorporates that inspiration into every project. From design concept to completion, she offers a full list of residential design services. Sandy is certified in redesign as well, delivering fabulous room makeovers.

Re-Style Interiors offers a unique blend of contemporary and modern style with the warmth of casual elegance. Sandy's design work has been published in Orange Coast Magazine and she continues to win awards on the very popular home remodeling and design website, Houzz.com.

Would you like to take your newly refined design skills to the next level? You can work with Sandy online through the "Room Fixer Virtual House Call"!

Using the magic of video conferencing, we will connect online for a one-on-one Private Design Consultation.

Direct access to a designer could cost thousands of dollars depending on the scope of your project. You will receive valuable design ideas and advice for a fraction of that cost from the comfort of your home!

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