

Sweet Embellishments

Simple Ways to Dramatically Update Your Sugar Land Home

WRITTEN BY TONYA ELLIS

Painted ceilings and accent walls along with a redesigned fireplace mantel updated this Greatwood home beautifully

Associates of Southern Design

The term “home makeover” brings to mind big changes and big money. But when it comes to updating your living space, say Sugar Land interior designers, little things can mean a lot.

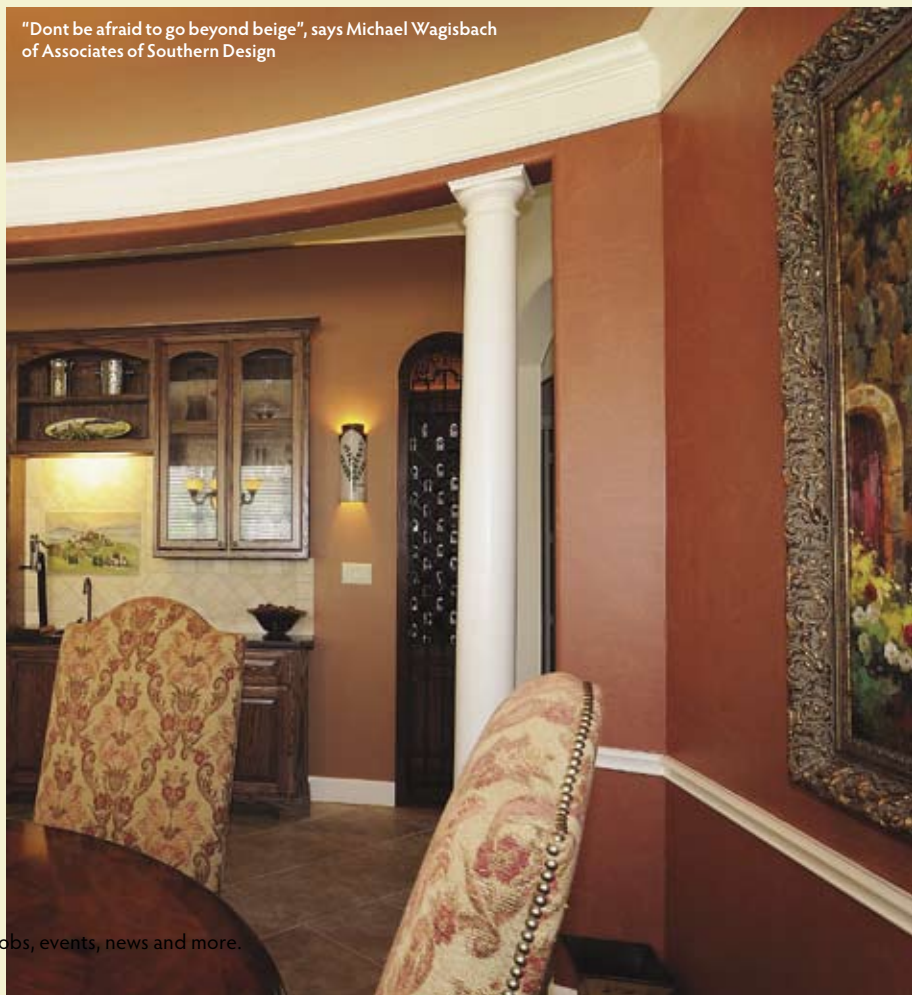
Start with Paint

One of the cheapest ways to make a big impact is to paint. “Paint can change the whole look of the room, make it larger or smaller, warmer or cooler. It’s the base of the whole design,” says Keron Weathered, an interior designer at Designer Showcase.

Don’t be afraid to go beyond beige when painting, adds Michael Wagisbach, co-owner of Associates of Southern Design, Inc. If you don’t like it, you can always repaint. And if you have high ceilings, don’t limit color to the walls. “Paint the ceiling a darker color than the walls,” he suggests. “Most homes have 10-foot ceilings. The room seems way too open.”

Popular paint colors in the Sugar Land area include earth tones, such as beiges, greens, browns and rusts. Reds are still popular for home theaters and dining rooms, but the tones are moving more toward terra cotta than burgundy, the designers say. Brighter colors and accents are starting to come into fashion as well, adds Maria Trevino, a designer from the Design Source. “A lot of whites, creams, yellows and soft greens are coming back. A while back we had a deeper, kind of cave look in the house.”

“Don’t be afraid to go beyond beige”, says Michael Wagisbach of Associates of Southern Design





Simply the right color on walls and art work really brought together this master bath designed by Associates of Southern Design



Updated cabinetry and lighting by Design Source

True or Faux?

Faux painting has been the rage for several years and is still going strong. The term “faux” means false in French. It’s a technique where tools, like rags and sponges, are used to make the painted wall look like a different material, such as marble, wood, or even leather or silk.

In addition to walls, people are faux painting cabinets and also faux embellishing ceilings to create an old world, castle-like feel. All faux is not created equal, according to Weathered. She recommends that clients seek a professional when going with the technique. “I’m not one for just getting the sponge out,” she says. “The kind of faux that I like is faux that’s done very professionally, and that’s not cheap.”

Although updating with faux is in, using wallpaper borders is definitely out. “No, make that go away,” laughs Wagisbach. Weathered agrees, “Unless it’s a little child’s room, where you can get really fun.”



This office in Greatwood updated by Associates of Southern Design once again uses paint and a custom built work station that hides computer wires yet makes them easily accessible

Room with a View

The fantastic views provided by natural and man-made waterways and greenery make fussy window treatments unnecessary for many Sugar Land homeowners, say the designers. Simple panels or shades at windows are the trend. Get fancy with curtain poles, rods, and finials to add elegance.

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Associates of Southern Design added finials and paint to the kitchen counter to create this great look



Change Your Hardware

Updating hardware on sinks, ceiling fans, lighting fixtures, and door knobs is an easy way to modernize your home. “The first thing I do is try to bring everybody out of the ‘80s by taking out all the brass,” says Wagisbach. Brass finishes were popular about 20 years ago, when many Sugar Land area homes were built, he explains. Some builders still use a lot of brass because it is cheaper. Hardware with satin nickel and aura bronze finishes are most popular now with home buyers.

Update with Accessories

Just as pieces of jewelry, belts, and bags can change the look of an outfit, home accessories can transform the look of a room. Sugar Land’s diverse population inspires many to include international flavor to their decorating style, mixing decorative items from



Neutral walls work well here with accent colors on ceiling and bedding

Associates of Southern Design

This lovely master bedroom has an inviting warmth thanks to the painted walls and darker ceiling



bedroom by Design Source

