

realiving

home / ideas shopping / food / you

instant makeovers

25 EASY WAYS TO UPDATE YOUR HOME

clever tricks for small spaces
— yes, they exist!

how to turn bland into blissful:
3 beautiful bedrooms

happy at home

what's hot?
kitchens & bathrooms



insider expert

Got a decorating dilemma? We ask leading interior expert Greg Natale to solve a reader's problem. No question is too small, too big, or too embarrassing – so write in!

Greg's plan for Joyce's living room

Joyce's fabulous **cuckoo clock** gets pride of place on its own wall.

Existing dining chairs are very ornate.

Reupholster in a plain colour like black in a luxe mohair velvet.

New **L-shaped sofa** in a plain colour to match the dining chairs defines the space. Anchor each end with the existing glass side tables.

Anchor the lounge room area with a beautiful **Persian rug**.

Group existing salon chairs and card table in the **corner** with the same style lamp that's on the credenza.

Replace the two white entertainment units with one **long credenza** in gloss black, for a cool, modern look.

Lamps are great but could be modernised with new shades.

Existing **glass coffee table** lets you see the Persian rug beneath.

New slimline **plasma or LCD TV** will fit the credenza unit beautifully.

One **feature chair** sets off the space. You can afford to reupholster in a bold pattern.



your thoughts on the mag

your letters

I was getting sick of my boring, bland and very dark lounge room filled with old op-shop furniture (see below).

The room doesn't get much natural light so I decided to buy some new furniture and accessories to brighten up the space. It's now a much nicer and lighter place to be. Hope you like it!

Ellison Bloomfield, St Kilda, Vic

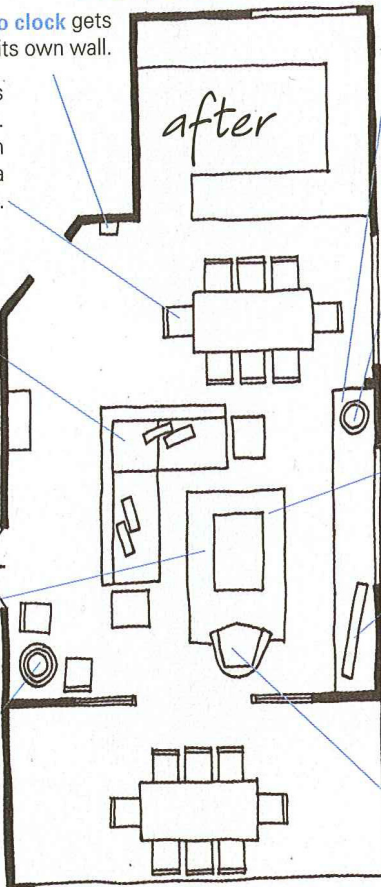
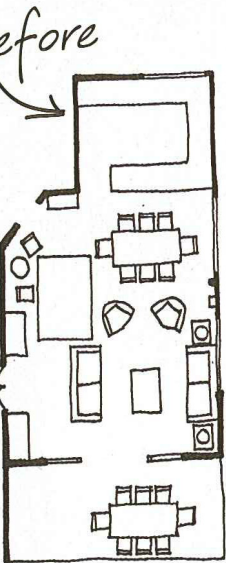


after

Please, please don't change a thing about your mag! Too many magazines feel the need to change once they become popular – but the reason they become popular is because of the original draft. Most of us live on a small budget and I think **real living** is great because it's at a real price and has real ideas, so it lives up to the name! Thanks heaps and keep up the great work.

P.S. A good segment could be real homes featuring your readers – there are some amazing homes out there that have been created from ideas in your magazine, proving that everything doesn't have to be a lifestyle of the rich.

Leisa McCutcheon, Noosa, Qld



plan of action

I love your magazine – there are lots of practical ideas that aren't over-the-top, and your makeovers are always affordable. So please help transform my living room (see above left)! I would appreciate any advice you can offer for creating a stylish bedroom, too. Thanks.

Joyce Serman, Bondi Junction, NSW

Interior expert Greg Natale says:

"For lots of ideas for your living room, see the above plan. As for your bedroom I would suggest new taupe linen with oversized lamps on the bedside tables. Remove any pictures from above the bed and put an ottoman at the end of the bed for storage. Buy a small wall console and position a mirror above."

WRITE IN TO WIN! (For our contact details, see page 161)

This month's letter writers will be smelling divine as they'll all receive these gorgeous goodies from De L'escalier: Lady Lavender Luxury Soap & Candle Set, \$24, and Lady Lavender De Luxe Candle, \$36. Visit espritdelescalier.com to view the full range.

