

Home *sweeter* home



If you find yourself standing in your living room thinking, *I'm so over it*, it's time to make those much-needed design updates to refresh your home and your psyche. But it's not always necessary to gut the place. For this redesign, think simple. Interior designer Barbara Brenner, of the Barbara Brenner & Associates design firm in Calabasas, explains: "It's important to go simple because less is always more. When I go into a home, the first thing I do is take out the clutter and get down to basics." We couldn't have said it better ourselves. So without further ado, here's our list of ways to renew, revamp and revitalize.

Spruce up your space with ease and elegance

By Pamela Bunn

FAMILY-FRIENDLY DESIGN

Accent pillows make a room more comfortable and inviting.

the design stage, their need for preparation is greatly diminished.

"Our family is large, but I don't really consider it entertaining when they come for holiday dinners," says Sheryl, who with her husband, Dominic, will host a sit-down Thanksgiving feast for 35, including their six children, friends and extended family. But this is a piece of cake next to their annual Halloween party for 1,000 guests on their extensive grounds.

While the house is large by any standard, through the magic of good design, each room feels warm, comforting and relaxed, much like the owners themselves. These pointers can be replicated with any size home, experts say. The key is designing rooms with extended family and entertaining in mind.

"I make sure all my rooms are family friendly," says Woodland Hills designer Tracy Murdock, who lives in Malibu and has clients throughout Southern California and in Hawaii. "Even if it is a home for only one or two people, more than likely they will be entertaining family and friends. This means that all rooms need to have comfortable seating with accent pillows as well as end tables, coasters nearby for drinks...and the furniture plan must form 'social circles' to invite gathering and interaction," says the former model best known as the face for Bijan menswear and perfume line.

With just a few adjustments, a home can withstand "many years of socializing, spills and dirty shoes," she adds.

Interior designer Denise Richards, owner



Along with the home, the Glavins purchased the antiques in the dining room, which include a French antique buffet cabinet once housed in the Louvre. Murdock says she wouldn't have dreamed of selling the home without its contents, noting that "the home and furnishings are one." Of course, the Glavins added their own touches, especially in the family den, which now includes a pool table and musical instruments for the kids.



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