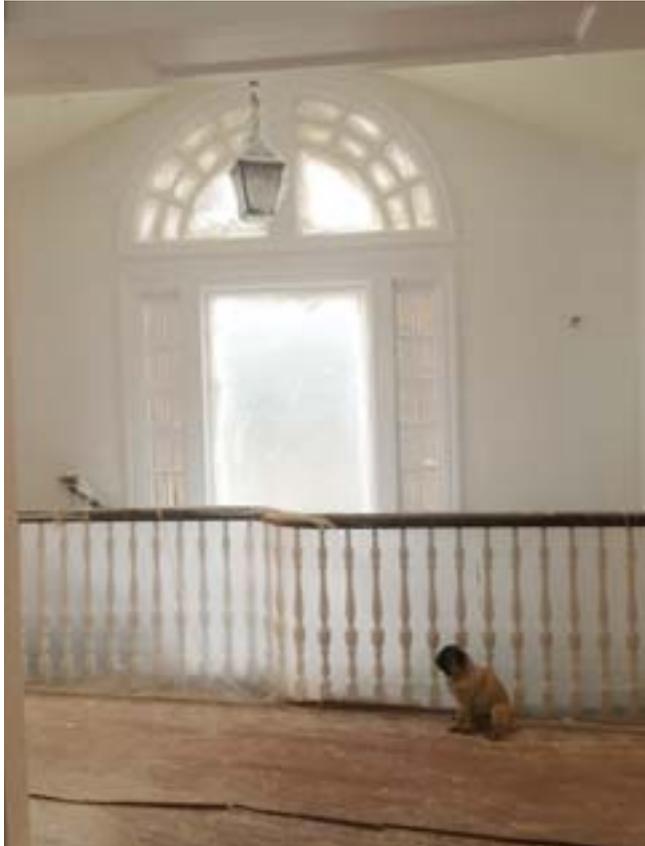


Stylish Solutions

March Madness: Give your interiors a spring makeover

By Ann McDonald



My home in a work in progress. Notice the smooth walls. They are so much more current. Our timeline is four weeks, based on a rough formula I came up with when we are managing simple interior updates: One week per 1,000 square feet. Our pug Bella is oversees the painters faithfully, each day. She loves to be part of the crew!

Welcome to March! While the sun is peeking through rain clouds, we are tackling an update of inside style this month. Depending on how long you have been in your home, it might be a good idea to look hard at what should stay and what should go.

As a design firm, we advise clients to take a deep look, every 10 to 15 years, at an interior update. For our purposes this month, let's call it a proverbial botox or laser peel.

Minimally invasive, an interior update is certainly more than a simple "teeth cleaning." The interior update can have down time and mess, but should be accomplished in less than a month, if well planned. We typically allocate one week per 1,000 square feet of home.

If your home is 2,000 square feet, plan for a solid two weeks; 4,000 square feet, plan for a month.

My personal recommendation for this type of update is that you plan to work from home to oversee it during this time, or hire a seriously good manager to coordinate this type of project.

While these are surface updates, they must be coordinated and overseen to prevent them from taking over or running off schedule.

Interior updates can range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 depending on the scale and type. For our discussion here: no walls or footprints are modified, no plumbing or electrical is being moved. An interior update like this is mostly about not getting caught wearing the 1970s polyester pantsuit when it's 2017.

What does this involve and why do it, even if you are planning to stay in your home another 50 years?

Sometimes we simply don't see what our home actually looks like. We've looked at the drapery so long, and paid so much for it years ago, we miss that it is in-

credibly outdated, even for a traditionalist.

Design is not a one-and-done type thing. Many homeowners think it is. It's not. Drapery has a life span. Tile backsplash has a life span. Even custom cabinets, have a life span.

Historic styles once considered sacred still need updates. Consider LED lighting or better water flow with a newer faucet. You source appropriate style-sensitive suppliers of course, and good places to start include appliances and windows that will reduce your electric or water bill.

Essentially we take a good hard look stylistically at what would better serve your lifestyle, especially financially. I know historic homes can turn into money pits, so let's do what we can with what we have access to.

For other homes, ask yourself, do our cabinets bang a bit? Do our windows open easily?

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