

## At Home with Amanda

# Tips on how to save those design dollars – and when to splurge! ... continued from page D8



*This living room is a perfect example of both saving and splurging. The clients have two young children and a puppy. All the upholstered furniture pieces were custom made but the rug was purchased from a local retail store. And yes, a few days after the install, said puppy “piddled” on the rug.*

*Photos Amanda Eck*

**3. Window Treatments:** Custom window treatments can be costly, but provide details that set your space apart. Even simple linen panels tailored to fit your windows make a huge difference. Off the shelf drapery that is too short or too long draws the wrong kind of attention, like an ill fitted pair of trousers. It’s always beneficial to have a seamstress hem your drapes to the appropriate length.

Now, for that that special holiday-related tip, let me share some “coming attractions.”

Throughout the summer I receive requests to engage our services. Start dates get pushed back however, due to vacations and the start of school. Before you know it, September is past, it’s early October and clients just start getting around to kicking off their projects. Their biggest concern now is ... trying to get the install complete before the holidays. Unfortunately, by October, that ship has probably already sailed.

If clients submitted their orders earlier, they’d enjoy the benefits of avoiding the holiday rush. They’ll sidestep back-ordered items, which can cause compromises in choices toward potentially more expensive pieces, they avoid “rush-order” requests, which mean higher fees from craftsman and delivery services, and dodge warehouses swelling due to holiday shipping, increasing the chance that a critical



*We used a simple linen fabric custom designed with a contrasting banding.*

piece won’t arrive in time. This is truly a case where the early bird gets the worm.

Hopefully both the general and time-sensitive tips I’ve shared will guide you when you are making upcoming decisions for decorating your home. Until next time dear friends!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home’s interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, “Beauty is a necessity.”

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.

