10 Ways to Make your Home Look More Expensive

Unless you are the owner of a brand new house (even then hopefully you like the finishes) you have this endless list of updates that you’d love to do ‘right now’ but can’t because it’s not in the budget. So that’s when you need to be creative and smart with where you spend your money.

A designer friend of mine once said “Every room needs at least one piece of ‘bling’ (higher price item—or looks it) that makes everything around it look more expensive”. So here are my 10 tips:

**Dining Room**

1). You can have a more expensive table like the Saarinen one below and then put most any chair with it. They can be bought second hand and unified with paint like in this image below:

![Dining Table Example](image)

2). Or take an old and dated dining room table and chairs, paint them and add a fabulous chandelier.
3). I know it’s clear that I love white kitchens but I still think the most inexpensive way to make your dated stained wood cabinets look more expensive is with paint. It doesn’t have to be white or cream, in fact if you don’t have any white or cream in your kitchen (or there’s none of it in your multi-coloured granite countertops or tile floor) then I wouldn’t suggest a white. I would then recommend a colour that relates to an existing one in the granite or the floor.
Powder Room

4). Go to your living room right now. Decide which accent colour you want to introduce or choose it from your existing toss cushions, etc. Take that colour and paint your powder room (or just the cabinet) with it. Now you’ll have started creating flow and you’ll also create a jewelry box effect at the same time.

5). This does not apply if you have multi coloured granite or floors. Better to wrap those colours together with paint colour rather than introduce a 5th or 6th colour that doesn’t relate to a single finish in that room.
Living Room

6). Take the leather sofa and move it into the family room. That’s the first thing. Now that you’ve done that, choose the colour you want to surround yourself in for the walls and then decide which sofa would look good with it. The style and look of your sofa will make or break the room, so choose carefully.

7). Okay you can’t do that because you love your leather sofa or you have kids/pets? Then buy a fabulous area rug in whichever pattern you love, Persian or a great contemporary graphic (below) to bring the room to life! Then get some toss cushions to match!
8). A great coffee table or end table also adds ‘bling’ to a living room. The cover of Style at home this month (on the top right of this newsletter) features an old cart that totally adds character and personality to the room.

9). Mirrors. A sparkly mirror can go a long way to creating a focal point in any room.

10) Accessories. All you need to dress up your coffee table are candles, coffee table books and a decorative vase or even better, flowers! Also a Tray to gather them all together as a vignette looks beautiful too. Read my ‘How to Create a Tablescape’ post again to see some examples.

I hope these ideas inspired you to either get out your paintbrush, start a shopping list or call me to help you pull it all together. If you have an empty house that needs decorating and styling or even if you are a do-it-yourselfer, a consultation to determine where you can get the best bang for your buck will go a long way to saving my fee because you’ll be making all the right choices in the first place.

My rates are $350 for a minimum 2 hour in home interior or exterior consultation and $150 for each hour thereafter. Please call me directly at 604.318.9725 to schedule an appointment.

Same rate applies for 2 hours on-line however I also offer a one hour consultation (for $200) to choose the right white for your cabinets, etc. (please email me at info@mariakillam.com for the entire rate sheet so you can see what I need for an on-line consultation.)