

New Look for a New Year

Nothing makes it feel more like a fresh start than a remodel. This year could be the year you do that renovation project you put off last year, and the year before that.



Finding the L-shaped, combination eating, work and storage space piece made all the difference in the remodel of this space-challenged kitchen. This project was conceived for a client who lived in a condominium in the Beverlywood area. She had a limited budget, but she wanted to preserve the tile.

Photo courtesy of Jana Design Interiors

by Jana Rosenblatt
Community Contributor

Thinking about making some changes in the New Year? Changing your environment is a great way to boost your outlook on life, inspire yourself and your family, or revitalize your workspace.

Take some creative chances – shake things up, kick it up a notch. Whether you are considering simple surface changes, or tackling the major renovation project you've been considering for years, here are some suggestions for how to get started.

Hiring An Interior Designer

A design professional can provide a fresh perspective. A professional can help the customer identify strengths and weakness in space plans, décor and workspace functionality.

While most people decorate their homes or offices a few times during their lives and careers, professionals in

design do this work every day and can make it easy and painless. As a design professional I have helped my clients make choices they can enjoy for years to come.

Designer or Architect?

When paint colors, furnishings, surface materials, enhanced lighting, window treatments and accessories are the focus, start with an interior designer.

Professional designers provide drawn plans of your renovation, as well as space plans for your workplace. They also will design built-ins and cabinetry.

If you are building a home or corporate headquarters from the ground up,

it's best to include an interior designer from the very beginning. Architectural plans are conceived from the outside in, so interior spaces are frequently left out. When it comes to meeting your actual day-to-day needs, an interior design professional can provide invaluable input.

A good designer also will take the time to find out about your lifestyle and what you require of your home or office, as well as your aesthetic preferences.

By including an interior designer from the start, you can be confident that the completed project will have all the storage, work and play space to suit your needs, as well as the look you love.

Knowing Your Budget

Even if you are not sure how much your renovation will cost, determine what you can afford and let your professional designer know your budget early on. A professional designer can help you stay on target with your budget while still achieving an outstanding result. A

great professional designer will help you squeeze every dollar to get the most for your money. You may also choose to adjust the budget to achieve a larger goal, or split the project into affordable segments, to be completed over time.

"I work closely with my clients to bring out their own personal style."

Jana Rosenblatt, Jana Design Interiors

Many designers try to impose their own style choices on their clients. I work closely with my clients to bring out their own personal style.

Everyone has a unique style, and a professional will help bring out the "you" in your decor, not someone you don't know.

The first step is finding out what attracts your eye. Magazine photos and websites are good tools. Create a file to store photos of furniture you love.

Next is pulling all those elements together into a style that is uniquely your own, and that's where a professional can help. A professional designer will pay close attention to what the client is attracted to, what his or her tastes are, then help them pull together those elements, which at times can be diverse.

Try to identify in advance what you hope to achieve, even if you don't know or are not sure how to achieve it.

The "what" should start with you. The "how" is the designer's job..

To view some design ideas, go to our website: JanaDesignInteriors.com.



Simplification was the guiding principal behind the remodel of this Bell Canyon livingroom, which benefited greatly by the addition of a glass safety railing/room divider.

Photo Courtesy of Jana Design Interiors

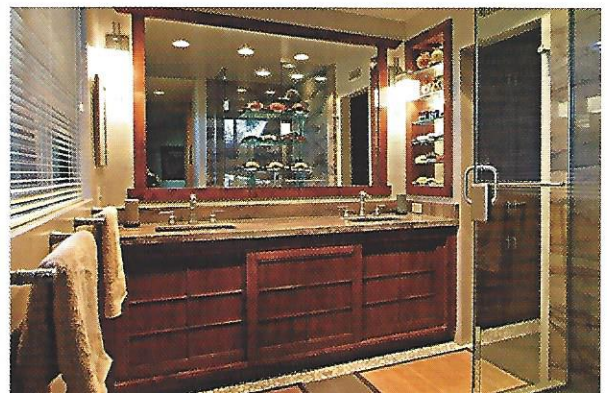
1876

Publication of "Suggestions for House Decorating in Painting, Woodwork and Furniture" in 1876 helped professionalize interior design in America.

Sisters Agnes and Rhoda Garret's slim, 90-page book of house decorating suggestions was among the earliest books on the subject. Several others were published shortly after the turn of the century, most of them by women. The profession of interior designer, however, got its big push in America after World War II, when returning soldiers dramatically boosted home sales and the amount of spending on home decorating. — **Hector Gonzalez**

YOUR OWN STYLE A PERSONAL TOUCH

The client of a Lake Hollywood home had traveled extensively in Japan, where he collected furniture and fine art. He wanted the renovation project for his master bathroom to reflect his Asian aesthetic and specifically to highlight the decorated backs and fronts of his collection of elaborately detailed geisha combs. At the Bell Canyon home above, the owners desired to preserve the coffee table, which had been built by the family business years before. New colors, shapes, softer lighting and an overall simplified approach to the railings updated the feel of the livingroom while still retaining the coffee table as the centerpiece of the room. Bright, contrasting colors used in the Beverlywood condo kitchen helped offset the sharpness of the tiled countertops, which the client could not replace without going over budget. — **Jana Rosenblatt**



Discovering how best to incorporate the client's tastes into any renovation project is job of the professional designer.

Photo courtesy of Jana Design Interiors