

Shun the Shag



After

Simplifying artwork, removing carpeting and transforming the entertainment cabinet into music and wine storage transformed the living room. Recessed can lights simplify the room's lighting.



Before

Beautiful hardwood floors were hiding underneath green shag carpeting. The room arrangement discouraged casual conversation and proper use of the dining room table, being used as a sofa table.



After

New wine storage racks were moved into the entertainment cabinet and her Mom's grandfather clock was moved from the den into the living space. JC Penney sale plantation shutters update the space.

Before

The dining table had to be moved to use it for entertaining friends and family. Dated shutters were in need of replacement.



REMOVING SHAG CARPET TO EXPOSE HARDWOOD FLOORS MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THIS LIVING ROOM

It never ceases to amaze me what removing wall-to-wall carpeting, rearranging furnishings and simplifying artwork and accessories can do to peel years off of a room.

CJ and Lynn Yeoman called me because they wanted a master plan to follow for their house. (Their kitchen makeover, "Down With The Furdawn" was featured in DIY Decorating, May, 2009 issue of Houston House & Home.)

They knew the living room was awfully choppy, but didn't think they could do much other than rip out the old carpet and install recessed can lights. I suggested, among other things, that they needed to move the TV into the den and replace their beloved wine rack with one that would fit into the entertainment cabinet.

CJ admits that moving the sofa, moving the TV out of the room plus hanging the mirror over the buffet and adding buffet lamps were hard to visualize and were a leap of faith.

tip> If space allows, major seating should greet you like a clamshell, welcoming you into the living room. The dining room's purpose should be clearly visible.

SETTING THE STAGE

After the lovely red oak hardwood floors hiding beneath the green shag carpeting were exposed, the new recessed can lights and JC Penney sale plantation shutters really showcased the rooms' possibilities. Houston Structural accomplished these minor physical changes, repaired the sheetrock walls and painted the rooms "Ivory Lace" by Sherwin Williams.

"The changes were significant, and immensely enhanced the value of our 1960s-era home," CJ says. "We really love the sophisticated spaces now—they are a restful, uncluttered area in which to listen to music, read and dine."

Before, they just moved furniture around to make room to open the table when they had the family over for holidays. TIP: Ideally you should not have to move any furniture around to entertain. It should be ready to go.

Having the drop leaf dining table open all the time shows off a very pretty table and encourages entertaining friends and family, making the space updated, functional and more spacious.

THE TV DILEMMA

"You asked us the big question: how often do you watch TV in this room?" CJ recalls. It became clear that the larger TV and the DVD player should be in the den, where they would really enjoy it. "When we decided we no longer

trade secrets

- **Think "green"**. Rearranging your furniture and giving unneeded pieces to charity keeps them out of the landfill and repurposes them.

- **Don't be afraid** to combine antique artwork, mirror and accessories with new budget-friendly lamps, rug and end table to create the room you have always dreamed of.

Think outside the box. A TV entertainment cabinet can be repurposed into a wine storage/music center.

- **Paint consistently gives the most bang for the buck.** Painting existing picture frames and re-matting them is less expensive than replacement.

- **Sometimes** the most effective strategy is not to buy more furniture and accessories for your home, but to first rethink the pieces that are already paid for.

needed the sofa in front of the entertainment center to watch TV, that domino falling was what made the new room possible," she explains. Husband Lynn loved that they no longer needed to buy a new TV for the den, which he figured saved them a bundle.

The couple had wine stored in the breakfast room and the corner of the dining room, so I suggested they buy additional modular metal wine racks they had previously found at Pier 1 Imports and consolidate all of the wine into the living room entertainment cabinet. (CJ knew that a cabinet sturdy enough for a big TV would easily hold the extra weight of wine bottles and racks.)

REARRANGE AND UNIFY

Nearly everything found a home. The rocking chair was moved to the guest bedroom and a trunk they had just received from CJ's Mom was used as the coffee table. Art frames were painted using Modern Masters Metallic Paint Collection in "English Brown" and re-matted with off white or white mats and re-hung in the master bedroom, den, hallway and entry.

tip Unify mismatched artwork frames with paint and the same neutral mat color. You will never see a colored mat in a fine gallery or art museum.

JOETTA MOULDEN offers home makeovers using your own home furnishings to create the home you've always dreamed of. Joetta believes your pieces collected through the years reflect your personality and can be artfully arranged. Her ability to focus on your personal style and not let her own preferences influence the design of your home makes her unique. See more makeovers on her Web site at www.shelterstyle.com, e-mail her at joetta@shelterstyle.com or call 713.461.2063. If an initial appointment or referral is booked by August 31, a 15 percent first meeting discount will be given. Shelterstyle.com holds a "Pages of Happiness" rating and, for the third consecutive year, a "Super Service Award" presented to 5 percent of companies that achieve and maintain a superior rating on www.angieslist.com.

The black metal nesting tables that Lynn hated were moved to the den to replace a dated, combination lamp and glass table shelf. The couple also replaced their larger speakers with small speakers they had on a shelf in the den, placing them on black stands they bought online. They purchased a new glass-topped "Mix" side table from Crate & Barrel, and topped the table with a new lampshade for their existing lamp from Alcon Lightcraft.

The old sofa and blue chair were given to charity since I explained it would cost more to buy 20+ yards of fabric and pay to replace the foam cushions, restyle and reupholster them than to buy new pieces on sale. Their new Star Furniture sofa came with the throw pillows, which work well with their existing painting.

tip Unless seating truly is sentimental, it usually is less expensive to replace low, outdated seating with quality sale merchandise.

CJ says one of the biggest changes was centering the existing buffet and moving the large hall mirror over it. She moans that shopping for the buffet lamps to flank it was a daunting challenge, "The lamps I found were either too expensive or were really cheap from China and looked it. I was delighted to find the Trent buffet lamps from www.lightingdirect.com, which were in a mid-price range and the height you recommended.

"While we are still looking for a special family to give our big wine rack to, we absolutely love the rooms. It is a must to have a professional help you. Homeowners are just too close to their house to see what needs to be done," CJ says.



