

Simple design rules

Before you get started on updating your living space, Pam Lampe says to stop and think about what makes a room flow. Here are some design rules to keep in mind.

- **Artwork** – Adding a piece of artwork to your main walls can give a focal point to a room, as well as help inspire a color or texture that ties the room together. Remember the biggest wall in the room should have the biggest pieces on them. Lampe says it is important to keep the scale of the room in mind when buying pieces. Also, keep rooms intimate by not lining the walls with furniture, but create groupings instead.

- **Accessories** – Lampe says accessories are important because they complete the space. Accessories can include pillows, floor rugs, vases and candle holders. Accessories can also help individualize your space.

- **Window coverings** – Window treatments can make a huge difference in a room, because it adds vertical appeal, Lampe says.

- **Lighting** – Lighting is often forgotten and can add a lot to a room. Lampe says homeowners should think about ambient lighting, overhead lighting and task lighting. Updating fixtures can be simple and make a big impact.

- **Paint** – Adding paint to a room is a relatively inexpensive update. Lampe says if you feel confused when choosing a color, remember to stick with a color from the middle down on the paint swatch. If you are looking for a punch wall go with a color from the middle up. To really spice things up include some of 2010s hot tribal colors, such as sienna red or orange.

- **Flooring** – Changing out the flooring can also be a great update, especially if you are doing a remodel. From carpet to tile to laminates, the possibilities are limitless.

– SUMMER STAIR

Design Style

Refresh your rooms

BY SUMMER STAIR
LONGMONT TIMES-CALL

Having a stylish living space in your home can make all the difference and it doesn't have to be expensive.

Interior designer Pam Lampe, owner of Home Matters which serves Northern Colorado and a contractor for Ideas Unlimited in Longmont, says anyone can refresh a room by simply knowing what their design style is and what their budget allows.

Lampe explained the top design styles she sees in homes and offered budget-friendly ideas to help make a room feel new again.

Tuscan: An Old World Style

Tuscan is a style that is inspired by the elements of nature. Textured walls, stone, natural grasses and heavy furniture are often displayed.

To update a Tuscan-themed room add a new piece of artwork that incorporates heavy frames



This room shows contemporary mixed with traditional design. While the bookcases are a Craftsman style and some of the accessories are contemporary, the window treatments, area rug, lighting and chairs make this space more traditional. Top: This contemporary bathroom shows how a little paint and a few accessories can transform a room. Below: This bedroom shows how you can use out of the ordinary. The flowers are yard art and the room was pulled together with decals made to match the bedspread. (Courtesy Pam Lampe)

and landscape themes, Lampe says.

As far as accessories go, think black wrought iron and bronze. Choose pillows and rugs that have texture in fall colors, such as orange, sage, green or golden yellow.

Colorado Casual

A Colorado casual design often overlaps with a Tuscan style. Both styles are about incorporating the Earth's natural colors and textures. Overstuffed microfiber, suede and leather furniture is popular because of its easy maintenance.

To update your room think rustic. Place burlap-styled drapes on a heavy metal rod or buy a new area rug with a texture you can see and feel. Accessorize with a ceramic vase or bronze statue.

Traditional Meets Sophisticated Country

In Northern Colorado, this style is often referred to as sophisticated country, Lampe says, and is more casual than formal. Patterns can be mixed and floral arrangements are dominant in sophisticated country decor.

Add a little something extra to your room with a still-life piece of artwork, or hang washed-out cotton drapes on an antique brass or wood rod.



According to Lampe, another great update would be to mix and match striped and plaid throw pillows in similar colors throughout the room.

Contemporary

A contemporary room would feature clean, simple lines without a lot of accessories. It is minimal in design, Lampe says.

To add to a contemporary room choose a solid or geometric area rug, or silky, metallic throw pillows.

For a new piece of artwork think abstract. Lampe says she has had clients let their kids create the artwork for the room, giving it something a little more personal.

Eclectic: A Little Bit of Everything

This design style can include any of the styles mentioned above, but Lampe says it is the hardest one to pull off. The key to making an eclectic design style work is to have some kind of cohesion, whether it is with a color or the use of texture. "You have to have something to pull it all together," Lampe says.

A fun, personal touch that can be added to an eclectic room is to create a collage on the wall of family photos using old frames. Updating throw pillows, possibly in a bright color, can also make the room pop.