



Styled Spaces *by* Vanessa Stone



Summer 2010 Newsletter

Anniversary Special

Summer 2010 is the 3rd anniversary for Styled Spaces. As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun!"

To share the joy of this celebratory time, I'm offering a **20% off all fabrics** – a great chance for you to refresh window coverings, upholstery, custom bedding, and toss cushions. Don't forget toss and seat cushions for your patio too.

Call me **before August 31** to receive this special offer.

Also in this issue:

Design Tip

Window Treatments

Great Finds

Wallpaper Wonders

Challenge | Solution

Cornered!



TV Design Shows: wow or wisdom?

Even designers watch TV design shows. Two of my favourites are Sarah Richardson's *Design Inc.* and Jim Caruk of *Real Renos*.

I think both do a good job of representing the true design process. They interact with the trades and the clients, are clearly professional, work to a plan, and are well organized.

Notice how sometimes things still go wrong for them? That's the life of a professional designer! Despite our best-made plans and experience, we're dealing with multiple trades and products. And let's not forget Murphy's Law. Some difficulties are bound to happen.

The personalities of these two hosts make their shows very entertaining.

But that's where TV viewers must remember to draw the line. To try to mimic what's shown on these shows can set up a homeowner for failure and/or out-of-control expense.

For example, some of the products are

chosen for the TV 'wow' factor and are not the best products for the application nor do they fit the owner's lifestyle.

On the positive side, these shows inspire. We see a 'before' transformed into an 'after', and can come away with ideas for waking up our own homes, or using space and colour more creatively.

If you've seen an idea on TV that you'd like to explore, call me. Together we can use it as a springboard for your own unique design.

Special thanks to...

...Glen and Joan Adam. We met when Styled Spaces was only part time, and I was on the edge of my decision to remain small or take the big step into full-time entrepreneurship. Their encouraging words – *Go for it; you can do it!* – came at exactly the right time. The rest is history. Thank you. It's my pleasure to acknowledge the role you played in my success in this 3rd anniversary issue.

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Blue skies, the grey majesty of mountain peaks and the deep green forests – I couldn't have designed it any better myself!

Nothing but blue skies

It was the first time in a long time that I've been away from my work for two weeks. I've come back refreshed, excited and inspired – not a bad combination!

Ryan and I took a road trip that wound its way off the island, through the interior and into the majesty of the Rocky Mountains.

Great Finds



Big, bold prints and textures. Designer wallpapers are showing up beautifully in powder rooms, on the headboard wall of bedrooms, and on living room accent walls.

Available through designers only, these high quality papers come in far more designs that you'll find in wallpaper stores. Call me; we can browse the books together.

Challenge and Solution

Nothing is too awkward!

My clients were stuck in a corner: their exterior French door almost reached the ceiling, and butted into a corner that held a window equally tight to the corner on the adjoining wall. My challenge: How to cover the door without ⁽¹⁾ detracting from its decorative casing, ⁽²⁾ interfering with the door and window function, and ⁽³⁾ crowding out a piece of furniture to the left of the door.

The solution: I designed the drapery to stack to the left of the door on the bare wall so that it didn't interfere with the door or window function. I used less than the normal fabric

We deliberately chose to travel before the busy tourist season, and enjoyed the quiet streets and parkland of Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise.

I found myself reflecting frequently on Styled Spaces and the grow-my-business 'road trip' I've been on for 3 years now. I can honestly say I can't imagine doing anything else. I love it!

Design Tip

The expression "*There's more than one way to skin a cat*" also applies to window treatments.

I often hear of folks who are frustrated by their search to find a single drapery solution.

The truth is it often takes a combination of window coverings to properly dress one window. For example, a functioning horizontal blind for light coverage and privacy, and non-functioning fabric side panels to soften the look. Use funky, contemporary, or traditional hardware to finish the full effect. Voila!

fullness to keep the drapery from interfering with the piece of furniture. I kept the look simple so as not to compete with the door's beautiful casing. And, since there was limited space from the top of the door to the ceiling, I chose a ceiling mounted rod.

The result was functional and attractive, and created a well-balanced corner.

Room challenges can seem impossible to a homeowner, but a professional designer has lots of knowledge, experience, fabrics and hardware up her sleeve! Nothing's ever too awkward, so please feel free to ask me for help.

Until next time,

Vanessa

I'd love to hear from you.

Thanks for reading my newsletter!

If you enjoyed this issue, I'd be happy to send a copy to your friend or colleague.

If you'd prefer not to receive future issues, I respect your wishes.

Have a design question you'd like me to answer?

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