

## A NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN

Ah, January, my favorite month of the year, New Beginnings. Everyone promises to do everything better this year. Gym memberships are up. New savings accounts are opened., Medical appointments are made. This is going to be THE year of real change.

Many of us will also take another look at our homes and make a promise to remodel, paint, purchase new window coverings, floor coverings, and furnishings....all those things that have been put off. This is the year to get it done. But it's so overwhelming; there's so much to do

But wait, Bob, you don't have to do it all at once! Sit down and make a wish list. Then decide on a budget. Then call in HELP! This is the sensible and intelligent way to proceed.

We all watch HGTV and wonder how they make it look so easy. And they get it done in 30 TV minutes! What goes on behind the scenes is a little different from real life. But the end result that you see on TV is an amazing transformation; it's beautiful, because, like everything else in life, intelligent and detailed planning went on for perhaps weeks or months behind the scenes. Just like everything else in life, planning is the key.

When it comes to your home, there are many things to consider before making any purchases. A professional interior designer with years of experience has probably seen one or more homes with similar challenges. Having a designer guide you through all the planning, organizing and decision making will save you time, money, and frustration. With careful planning and patience and remembering that quality overrides quantity, you can start with just one or two items on your wish list and build from there. There is a sense of pride, continuity, and value that comes with this slow and steady approach. Even if your budget allows for more than one or two items, choose carefully, and stick with the plan.

Here's a designer's tip to get started. Clean out a room completely and sit in it for a few days. Imagine your favorite things in this new, empty room. Don't think about obstacles. Just think about your perfect room. This is the first step. I'd appreciate feedback. Call or email or go on our website for some real life Cinderella stories; see the Interiors page and the Before and Afters; and if you have any questions, call or email us. Happy New Year!