

## Home



RULE OF THREES: For accessories such as pillows, interior designer Jodie Rosen suggests sticking to an uneven number for a balanced look. PHOTO COURTESY JODIE ROSEN DESIGN

## MAKEOVER 101:

## Jodie Rosen's quick fixes for revamping your home

- **Out with the old, in with the new.**  
"Changing up pillows on a couch would be a good way to get a different colour scheme into the room."
- **Bust out the paint swatches.**  
"It's sort of obvious, but changing up paint colour makes a massive difference."
- **Kitchen renovation.**  
"Replacing the existing cabinetry with different hardware would be a great way of doing a quick update. Then consider adding an accent wall, maybe with wallpaper."

# She's got a knack for arranging things

## ANN RUPPENSTEIN

Home Improvement

Growing up, interior designer Jodie Rosen would frequently rearrange her bedroom. She'd be consumed by thoughts of changing furniture layout when she was in someone else's house, too.

"Everybody else would be sitting at a dinner table talking about current events and I would be thinking, 'If they put that chair over there it would open u p

the space,'" Rosen said, laughing, during a recent interview with the *Town Crier*.

Having worked for several architectural firms, the graduate of University of Western Ontario and International Academy of Design launched her North Toronto-based interior design firm after being on maternity leave with her first child. Through Jodie Rosen Design, which specializes in residential projects, the mother of two said she is able to juggle being an entrepreneur and a mother.

Defining her style as modern-with-a-comfortable-twist, Rosen offers a range of services, from sustainable design to custom millwork. Here she reveals some tips on the selection and placement of artwork and accessories throughout the home.

### Size does matter

Proportion and size are important things to consider when selecting art and accessories. Rosen recommends avoiding pieces that are too large for the space, that would wind up overpowering a room.

"You want to make sure it

accents what's already there, versus taking over," she said. "The flip side is you don't want to select a piece of art that is so small that it feels like it's being swallowed in the room and you're not getting the certain drama you'd get if it was a size that made sense for the space."

### Up front and centre

Whether she's working with existing art her customers already own or on selecting new artwork, Rosen said her clients pick out their favourite pieces, which she displays in prominent spaces in the house or apartment.

"The pieces that really speak to them and are of most interest end up in common spots," she said.

### Being odd is in

For interior accessories such as vases or pillows, Rosen suggests sticking to an uneven number for a balanced look that's not too symmetrical.

"You'd want to keep it as a grouping of three or a grouping of five, not an even number," she said. "Designers usually don't put two vases together.

"It's usually a grouping of three."

### Give it a test run

Rosen feels it's a good idea to prop pieces of artwork against a wall in the desired space to get an idea of how it will look before busting out the nails and hammering any holes.

"Leave them there for a couple of days to get a sense of whether or not you really feel like that painting, piece of art, photograph — whatever — would work before you commit to putting it on the wall," she said.

### Everything in its right place

Although making sure pieces are leveled is also key, when it comes to hanging art, Rosen said, it's important to leave some room around the work, including distance from the ceiling to the piece and any furniture pieces below it.

"If it's going above a sofa or going above a table, make sure that there's actually space between that furniture piece before the art starts, so it's not crowding the furniture," she stressed.



PHOTO COURTESY JODIE ROSEN DESIGN

DESIGNING WOMAN: Rosen launched her own company, Jodie Rosen Design, so she could juggle being both a mother and an entrepreneur.



# Coaster-to-coaster approval of your ... yawn ... would-be slide show



**HANDY ANN**

ANN RUPPENSTEIN

I take a lot of pictures, especially when I travel, but aside from a few large prints displayed around my house most of the files wind up just hogging space on my hard drive.

Since it's next to impos-

sible to convince friends or family to sit through a slideshow of the 4,357 photos I've collected in recent years from adventures in England, Germany and Peru, I knew I had to come up with something a little

more functional.

That's when I hit upon the idea of turning my travel gems into photo coasters.

Not only do they add a personal touch to serving drinks, but custom coasters allow me to show off some of my favourite moments from around the globe without bombarding guests with a never-ending slideshow.

My finished pieces are now permanently displayed on my coffee table. (I won't admit to whether or not it has something to do with the paint chips they are strategically covering up.)

These coasters can also be turned into a homemade gift idea, personalized by using the recipient's own wedding or baby photos.

What you need:

- 4-12 tiles (4x4, 5x5 or 6x6 inches)

- 4-12 photo prints (4x4, 5x5 or 6x6 inches)
- 1 glue stick
- 1 can of a high-gloss finishing spray, like Zinsser Bulls Eye Soft-Gloss Spray Shellac

1) Select some inexpensive tiles from your local hardware store — or make use of any extra pieces left over from a renovation project. For best results, use 4x4-, 5x5- or 6x6-inch tiles.

2) Choose the photographs you want to use and get them printed to fit the tile size, or select a smaller print size to create a border. In this example I used 5x5-inch prints of old travel photos on 6x6-inch tiles.

3) Use a glue stick to apply a smooth layer of glue to the back of each photograph, making sure to get glue close to the edges. Remove any noticeable chunks of glue and press



**OFF THE WALL:** Photo coasters let you display some of your favourite travel or family photos in a functional way. For the finishing touch, lay your almost-complete gems on sheets of old newspaper and apply a few light coats of high-gloss spray.

photos firmly onto tiles. Let dry.

4) Lay out a few sheets of newspaper to protect the surface you're working on. That old issue of the *Town Crier* will do (as long as it's not a page with my article on it!). Spread the tiles on top with the photos facing upwards.

5) Apply a few light coats of high-gloss finishing spray. Allow enough time for the finish to dry between coats. As an alternative to the spray, use a paintbrush to apply coats of Mod Podge to the top of the tile and photo instead. The end result is similar but not quite as glossy.



# Spring is a great time to freshen up your home

Delve into dosets, discover goodies you can display as new

JODIE ROSEN  
Home & Garden

You won't find me redecorating come the start of each new season. I'm not

a seasonal kind of designer. However, I do believe that interiors can get stale if things are never moved around and repurposed.

Spring is the perfect time to get cleaning. It's not about dusting and disinfecting — that is a whole other job. I'm thinking delving into dosets and creating piles to purge, donate or keep. This pro-

cess usually unveils all sorts of goodies, which can then be displayed in your home as though they are new finds. It's a great way to freshen up without spending a penny.

Editing your space is an easy way to change up your interior. The old adage in fashion to take one thing off before leaving the house also holds up in interi-



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHANI BUCHMAN  
**SPRING CLEANING:** Residential designer Jodie Rosen says rummaging through dosets and reorganizing rooms can unveil new items to display throughout the home.

prime spots to showcase more than just books. Sure, a few special books (with beautiful spines) can really add character to a bookshelf, but consider varying the shelves with picture frames and a few choice tchotchkes, like a vase or figurine, in addition to the books.

While you're cleaning out your closet, discover old photographs and paintings that will breathe new life onto your walls. Simply changing out the photos in your already hanging frames and changing around pieces of art will feel like a whole new installation.

After you've shopped your house for a fabulous new look, pick up some fresh flowers in bright, beautiful colours and arrange them throughout. Nothing livenes up a room, adds colour and says spring like fresh blooms.

Jodie Rosen is a residential designer at North Toronto based Jodie Rosen Design.

or design: less is usually always more. Let a few key pieces tell the story of your space. Clutter can just be distracting.

Most homes have bookshelves packed with books, which is great if it's a library or study. Areas like a family room or living room are

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