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Spring In the new Martin Amado Six ideas for making your home bloom

By Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub

iving in South Florida is no excuse for having the same décor year-round. Just look outside and see how the plants change. That beautiful yellow flowering tree, the tabebuia, blooms right around tax time. Your home can bloom too.

No one is better at quick-change artistry than Martin Amado, the Makeover Maestro on WSVN-7. He shared these six easy fixes:

1. Shop at home

Change the layout of your furniture. Move the sofa. If it is against the wall, float it in the middle of the room and move the chairs to create a new conversation area. Take a chair from another room and add it to the living room.

2. Dress the walls

Paint is an inexpensive way to refresh a space. Add coordinating color wallpaper on one wall as an accent. Go for a neutral geometric or a floral, which was making a comeback at the High Point Market. If you doubt your skill, experiment with a peeland-stick product. Amado has used wallpaper behind headboards and behind artwork.

3. Lighting the way

Update your lighting fixtures with a more glam look. One of the popular styles for chandeliers is a drum shade with hanging crystals. "A chandelier can be the jewel of the space," Amado says.

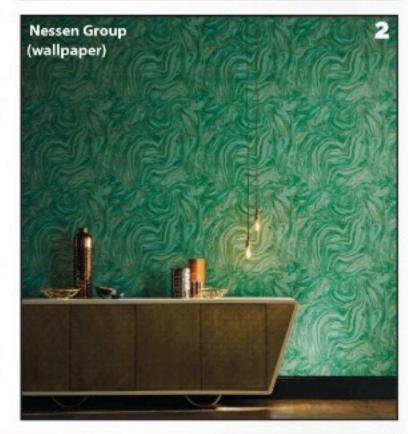
4. Metallics shine

Metallics can add sparkle and glam to any space. Add a garden stool in gold or introduce a new metal bookcase, chair or coffee table.

5. Accent with accessories

Spring is a good time to add lighter colors in throw pillows and bedding. Texture is a big trend. Look for cable knits or a touch of faux fur on the trim.

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6. Rotate your art

Some folks change their artwork with the seasons from a winter scene to a spring flowering scene to a painting of a beach. Amado suggests changing the wall art with found objects. He has framed bold, metallic wallpaper and used six of them in a gallery wall collection. Another time he found crystals and framed them in a shadow box.

The only limit is your imagination.

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