

BEST NEW REMODEL IDEAS

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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# Wow Now

## ONCE DRAB, A SPARSELY DECORATED CONDO GOES FROM BLAND TO BEAUTIFUL

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**W**hen Lissa Lee Hickman purchased her north Scottsdale condo, she knew there was work to be done. The residence was small, and instead of making a statement, it was bland, boring and bare. Unruffled, the interior designer immediately began to weave her magic, and in just 33 days transformed the sparse interior spaces into rooms that ooze personal style.

"The home was very gray, monochromatic and cold when I bought it," says Hickman, an Allied Member of ASID. "I took everything out, down to the garbage disposal."

The overall goal was to make the residence more functional, warm and intimate, a place that reflected her style with an interesting mix of drama and comfort. "I wanted to create a space that I could come home to and feel good about—a place where friends could come to relax and have fun," she remarks.

While modest in size, the two-bedroom, two-bath condo now resonates with smart design and personality, and entices guests to come in and stay awhile. Major changes involved gutting both bathrooms and adding wood flooring—not to mention the usual laundry list of painting, tiling, electrical work and the installation of cabinetry, appliances and window treatments.

The condo lives much larger than its compact 1,300 square feet, with Hickman's clever use of mirrors enhancing the feeling of space and reflecting light throughout. Textures and layers define the home, while the neutral color palette is uncomplicated and soothing. Interior walls are painted a soft-beige hue, with the exception of the powder room, which has upholstered walls. Dark kitchen and bathroom cabinets and walnut floors lend continuity and contrast, while burnt-orange accents provide bursts of color.

There is an element of escape in the luxurious master bedroom, which features a canopied bed with crisp linens in a mix of white and taupe. "I love to come in here to unwind and think about

the day," she confides. "It's very calming and feminine—a perfect reflection of my personality."

To give the room more character, Hickman replaced the ceiling fan with a chandelier. "Changing a light fixture is an inexpensive way to jazz up a room," she states. "A chandelier adds a touch of fun to a room, like a piece of jewelry."

Hickman says her interest in design began as a young girl growing up in Santa Fe. "My father was a custom home builder, and I remember going to work sites with him and looking at the plans," she reminisces. "My brother and I would have a picnic at the site and watch him work. I absolutely love what I do—working with the builder and architect as a team to create something from nothing and make a client's vision a reality."

"This renovation gave me a chance to showcase my abilities and try different ideas and techniques, and I definitely feel good about the results," adds the 35-year-old. "I enjoy entertaining, and my friends love to come over now for cocktails, music and to chat about their day."

Not surprisingly, her guests' main comment is, "Wow!" It's an appropriate reaction for this gem of a home—one that epitomizes the woman who, after a day at the office or a girls' night out, can't wait to put the key in her own front door. □



**Opposite:** A mirrored wall accented with decos at junction points visually expands the dining room of this north Scottsdale condo. Flooring is dark walnut with a contrasting band of travertine that creates a transition from a stairway entry. Tall shutters coupled with stationary drapery panels hung from the ceiling lend privacy and draw the eye upward. A pedestal table and a pair of oversized leather wing chairs fill the space without overwhelming it. The green of a preserved floral and the sparkle of a dainty chandelier add fine finishing touches.













BEFORE



This page: In the living room, a niche above the fireplace was filled in to accommodate a flat-screen TV, while a band of dark ceramic tile was added around the existing fireplace. The original TV niche was modified with a second shelf to store books and accessories. Opposite: Lissa Lee Hickman turned her spare bedroom into a stylish home office, complete with a custom wall unit that includes a work surface and plenty of storage for files and supplies.





*"A chandelier adds a touch of fun to a room, like a piece of jewelry"*



**Above:** The condo's hidden treasures include this dramatic powder room, which is defined by walls upholstered in a bold brocade print and accented with a shimmering pendant light fixture. The matching shower curtain is lined with a water-resistant indoor/outdoor Sunbrella fabric. Shower walls and flooring are travertine. **Right:** A pair of framed mirrors placed over a wall mirror adds dimension in the master bathroom; a single sconce divides the area for his-and-hers use. The counter and floors are Crema Marfil marble. Chocolate grass-cloth wallpaper provides texture. **Opposite:** A mirrored wall enhances the feeling of space and reflects light in the master bedroom. The bed is dressed with linens that tie in with the home's color scheme, and a canopy treatment that lends a regal touch. In keeping with the room's elegant ambience, an existing ceiling fan was replaced with a crystal chandelier. Trim work includes pom-pom fringe on the duvet, bullion fringe on the crown of the canopy, and tassel fringe on the edges of the drapery panels.

See Sources.





