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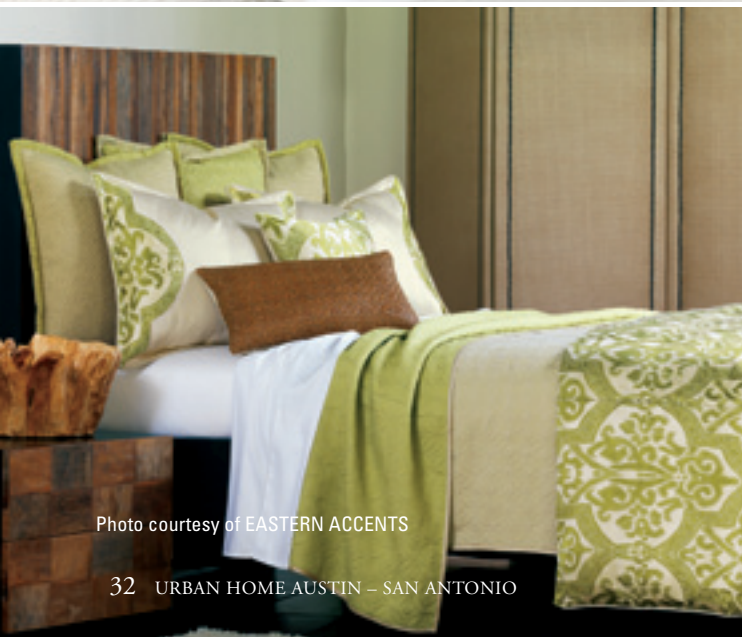


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TEXAS INTERIORS LIGHTEN UP FOR SUMMER

After our long, cold winter, warm weather is finally here, and with it, the chance to lift our spirits with interiors that are lighter, cooler and more colorful.

To help you transform your home for the season, we asked Austin interior designer Dawn Hearn, a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) to share her best budget-friendly ideas. We asked Sam O’Krent, President of the 95-year old Abbey Flooring Center in San Antonio, for advice on flooring for warmer weather.

Begin by paring down. “Small changes can make a big difference,” says Dawn, who advises her clients to lighten the look of their rooms by removing accessories.

For instance, if you have several lamps in a room, scale it down to two or three for spring and summer. You won’t need as many with the longer days.

“Put several items from each room away to clean out and pare down your living spaces,” says Dawn. “This will create a more open and serene environment for summer’s casual living.”

Lighten up your fabrics. Change out your pillows and heavy draperies. “Switch to simple fabrics, lighter textures and brighter colors,” says Dawn.

She suggests changing out your pillows with a second set or using decorative covers in fresh floral prints over your existing pillows. Replace your heavy comforter with a light cotton coverlet. Remove window treatments or switch them out with sheer fabric panels that let in the light.

Introduce color. Summer is the time to add punches of bright, optimistic color. “This year, introducing turquoise and orange will create a fun, up-to-date look,” says Dawn.

Try re-inventing a piece of furniture yourself with some high



Photo courtesy of DAWN HEARN DESIGN

gloss paint. Cover a side chair in a bright, bold print, or add a new lampshade in a fresh new color or pattern.

“Switching out your lampshades is one of the simplest changes you can make,” says Dawn. “Try embellished or textured lampshades. A new lampshade in linen or a metallic finish will add instant flair.”

Change your bedding. “Try something light and fresh, perhaps a little more whimsical than usual,” says Dawn. “Celebrate the playful side of summer with colors and patterns that are sunny and fun. Bedding companies always introduce new colors and patterns for the spring and summer seasons, so there should be a lot to choose from!”

Decorate with flowers. Fresh flowers not only brighten a room with color after a long winter, they also bring the scent of summer indoors.

“Bring in cut flowers from your garden and display them in a pretty glass or crystal vase,” says Dawn.

Choose flowers in colors and styles that complement your home’s décor. Roses, chrysanthemums and lilies look great in glass or crystal vases for traditional rooms. Put daisies, tulips and roses in a watering can, Mason jar or bucket for a cottage-like feel on a porch or in a casual room. Or add some drama with a single

“Think light, clean, open, simple and tranquil.”

Dawn Hearn



Photo courtesy of O'KRENT'S ABBEY FLOORING CENTER

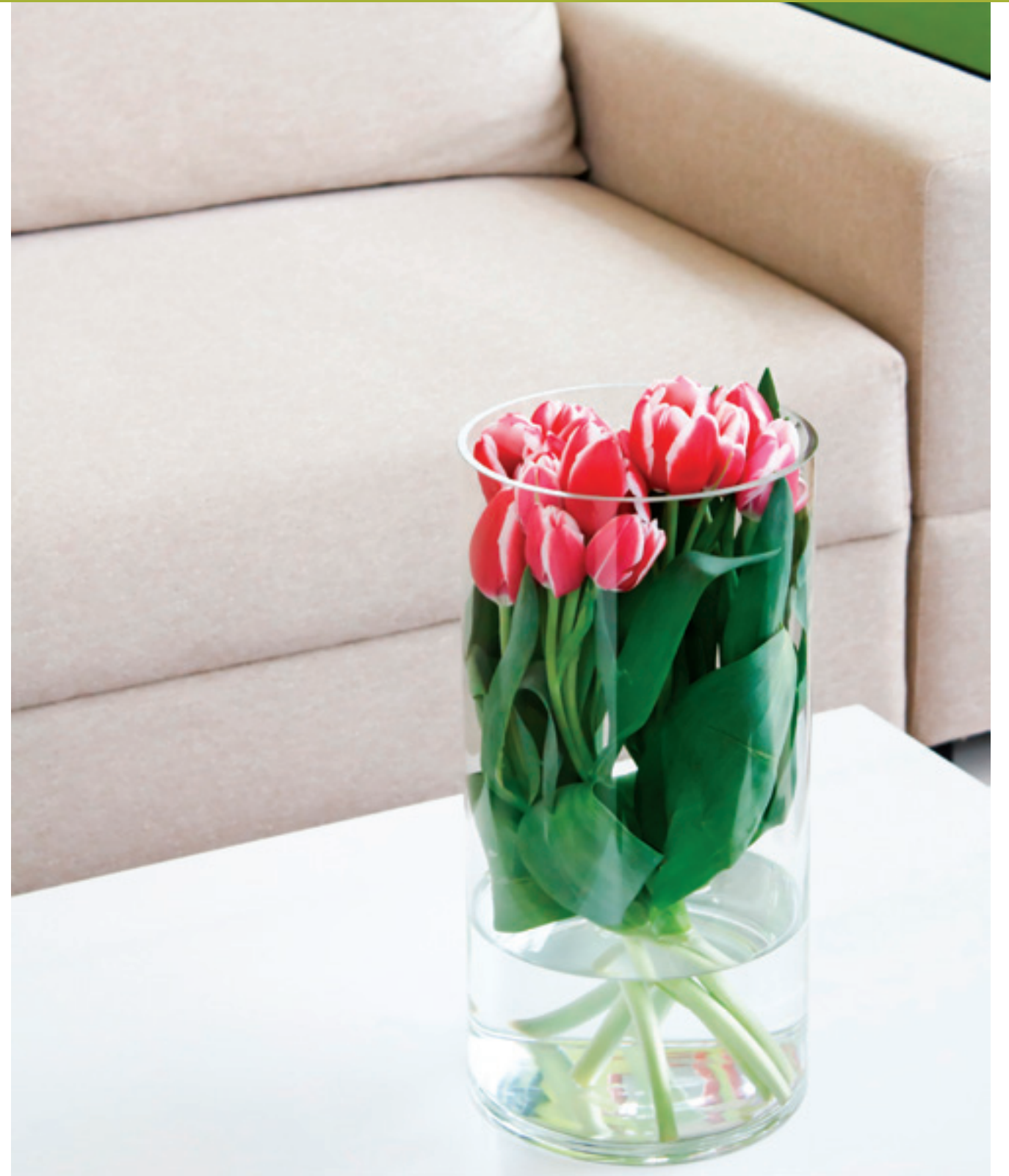
orchid, calla lily or fern branch in a contemporary container for a sophisticated, transitional look.

Roll up your rugs. Dawn recommends rolling up heavy rugs and storing them until fall. "You could add a natural sisal or any rug that is lighter in color and texture to freshen a room," she says. "Or skip the rug and enjoy the coolness and texture of bare wood or tile floors."

"As an alternative, if you still love the feel of a rug beneath your feet, try 'flipping' your rug," says Sam. O'Krent's Abbey

Flooring Center in San Antonio carries a line of two-sided rugs. Each side is in the same color family to coordinate with the other interiors in your room, but is uniquely different in look and feel. "It's a way to spruce up your room without adding any additional costs," he explains.

Changing your rooms over for summer should be effortless and affordable. "Think light, clean, open, simple and tranquil," says Dawn. "Get started now, so you can relax and enjoy the long summer days ahead in your new, fresh rooms." ❖



EFFORTLESS SUMMER CHIC



- Pare down accessories
- Switch to lighter fabrics
- Add splashes of bright color
- Remove heavy rugs
- Change your bedding
- Bring flowers inside

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