

REAL SIMPLE

| LIFE MADE EASIER |

five
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treatments
that will
change
your life**

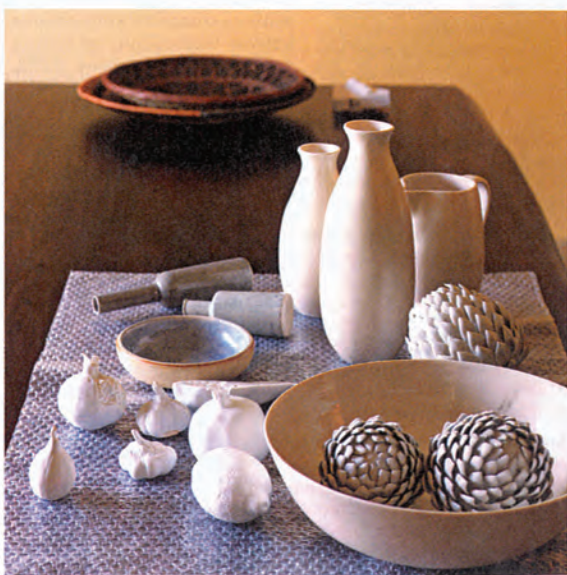
(and make
every day
a little bit
easier)

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forever**



FINISH MY ROOM

Three stalled decorating projects + a handful of clever ideas + a bit of elbow grease = all the motivation you need to turn a space from incomplete to *incomparable*.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONNY VALIANT
PRODUCED BY KELLEY CARTER STYLING BY JARED LAWTON



Shanta's vibrant living room FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

THE "BEFORE" STORY: After changing apartments abruptly (only months after settling into her previous space, which was burglarized), Shanta Speller, a Web project manager, outfitted the living room of her prewar one-bedroom apartment with a sofa and a love seat. "I tend to play it safe, buying matched sets of furniture and making sure all the woods go together. I like color but don't feel confident about using it," she explains.

WHY SHANTA STALLED: Moving twice in six months made money tight, and she was simply worn-out: "I wasn't quite up to the task of decorating."

WHAT SHE HOPED FOR: "I wanted it to feel like a real home—lived-in and with plenty of style and character."

the plan

Energize the muted space with color, and bring a happier, more intimate feel to the large seating area.

PATTERNED CURTAINS with solid furniture (or vice versa) is a simple formula for making a room feel alive but not frenetic. Extended an extra foot on either side of the window, the graphic print sets a playful mood, masks plain white walls, and gives the space a clear focal point.

MIXING A TV WITH ART is a smart solution to a standard challenge. Here, the frames are all dark to blend with the screen but slightly varied. Map your plan on the floor before hanging, using a large sheet of paper to represent the television.

LAYERED RUGS bring dimension to the room and make it feel cozier. Inexpensive, solid broadloom frames a neutral pattern,

which adds spice without being overwhelming. (Buy broadloom cut to length and ask to have the edges "bound to match.")

ORANGE AND TURQUOISE is a youthful, beachy combo that makes a room feel spirited and fun.

LIGHT, LEGGY PIECES, like glass side tables, delicate lamps, and a floaty bookshelf, counter the weight of the hefty sofa and love seat, giving the room much needed buoyancy.

A DASH OF SYMMETRY brings order to a space with lots of pattern. But in a casual room, the odd-ball pieces that shake up symmetry (here, the drum table and the orange stool) are just as important.



WHERE TO BUY

Hidden Tab custom drapery, \$496, smithandnoble.com. Stockholm TV unit, \$299; Kulla lamps, \$50 each: ikea.com for stores. Nash coffee table, \$409; Chevron pillows, \$139 each: roomandboard.com. Martini stool, \$129; Jigsaw Spine bookcase, \$200; side tables, \$199 each: westelm.com. Kamal side table (wood), \$1,350, arteriorshome.com for info. Egg lamp, \$230; shade (orange), \$200: jamieyoung.com for stores. Art by TV: art.com and 20x200.com (see Credits, page 215). Frames, from \$14 each, larsonjuhl.com for stores.

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