



Mouldings offer an affordable means of highlighting the interior space.



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IT'S DECOREX time! South Africa's premier decor, design and lifestyle show, which exhibits in three cities, with Durban's show already ended yesterday.

While showcasing what's hot in the latest home decor trends, it also inspires with ideas to bring some colour and va-va-voom back into your home. For this very reason, we've enlisted the help of experts on how to update your home without breaking the bank...

THE BATHROOM

The bathroom is considered one of the most costly parts of the home when it comes to redesign. This needn't be the case, says Jasmin Kraneveldt from Bathroom Bizarre. The mistake that many people make is to tile only sections of the bathroom in order to save on costs. "A bathroom's walls and floor should be entirely tiled for a truly finished and well-put-together look," she advises.

"Although it may seem like you are saving money now, in the long run, you won't be, as you will need to repaint the walls every so often, whereas with tiles, apart from wiping them down, there is very little that needs to be done to keep them looking good."

How to save on cash: Choose less expensive tiles for the main areas, and create feature walls by accenting them with more expensive mosaics or decorative tiles.

Forgo the custom cabinetry and

BIG TWEAKS ON A SMALL BUDGET

opt for stock cabinetry which comes in a wide variety of sizes and styles.

Choose white sanitary ware as this boasts mass appeal and added longevity of style, and compliments virtually all colour palettes.

THE KITCHEN

Miele's Liam Gawne suggests a cost-effective idea for people renting homes: invest in premium counter-top appliances that you can take with you whenever you move.

"The beauty of this is that the counter-top models are usually much more affordable than their built-in or integrated counterparts," he adds.

Counter-top models not only boast the large majority of innovations, technology and functionality of the built-in models, but they are also more affordable, and they are transportable.

GENERAL UPDATES

Minimalism has always been trendy, but the ethics behind this kind of decor are set to make a big stand in 2017, says Claire Gibson from La-Z-Boy.

"If you are on a tight budget, it is a good idea to select a few high quality pieces that will make a statement, rather than buying a lot of mediocre pieces and overcrowding the area," she adds.

When it comes furniture, Gibson says that "sofas with a chaise extension are a great investment." This kind of seating design usually comes in at a more affordable price than investing in two separate sofas, but it can accommodate around the same amount of people.

For more seating or if you are decorating a larger living area, you can pair it with "one or two affordable single-seaters or dining chairs". Interior mouldings offer an affordable and practical means of highlighting the decor of any interior space, as well as adding architectural interest to plain walls and ceilings, says Swartland's Rendus Odendaal.

Odendaal notes that the following rule of thumb can be used when making your selection: "The higher the ceiling and the bigger the room, the larger the mouldings and

the more intricate their profiles should be."

LIGHTING

Lighting can make or break the style of your home in an instant, says Melissa Davidson from The Lighting Warehouse.

"The wrong lighting is very uncomplimentary and tends to add focus to the so-called undesirable elements in any given space. The right lighting, however, can add an aspect to your home that didn't exist before."

She uses the example of smaller rooms: "Bright, airy colours and bold lighting reflect the light effectively which creates the illusion of added space. Together with the right colour, you can totally transform your home with strategic lighting. And the best thing is that it doesn't have to cost you a fortune."

● Decorex: Cape Town: April 27-30; Joburg: August 9-13; ticket prices: adults: R85, pensioners: R75, children under 12 years: R20. See www.reedexpoafrica.co.za/decorex/decorex-durban-2017



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