

Small space, tall windows pose decorating dilemma

DEAR DESIGNER: We recently moved into this great condo but don't know where to start decorating. As you can see by our pictures, we desperately need the help of a designer.

We want to add color and artwork. My husband likes contemporary things and I like softer, almost traditional design. We need a bookcase and a place for our plasma television. We also need help with the windows. We have one high window. Do we decorate tall, putting both windows together, or ignore the top window and only decorate the bottom one? Can you help us? — Unsure where to start.

DEAR UNSURE: Your condo has the potential for being a wonderful space. Although the room is quite small in floor space, it has very high ceilings which can make it appear much larger. A few simple changes can make your room fabulous.

Here is my vision for your space. I have kept the floor plan simple to facilitate easy access to and through every area. Your sofa and chair are specified with a soft chenille fabric, yet they have the clean lines of contemporary décor.

Because you have a television in the room, and you may get a lot of glaring light from the windows, I would suggest layered window treatments. Use roman shades for function and tall draperies for warmth and effect. The roman shades can have black-out lining. Since one window is so high, the roman shade can be raised and



Cindy Payne
DEAR DESIGNER

lowered by a remote control. Installing window dressings on the highest window will bring your eye up and take advantage of the majesty of the room.

We can update your fireplace by removing the painted brick, raising the height of the surround and putting slate or granite squares on the width of the wall. To give the area a unique and contemporary look, I would use a curved mantel with a raised glass top. You will need a tall piece of art above the new fireplace to move your eye gradually down from the tall draperies.

A custom entertainment center can organize and hide your video equipment. This also will allow you space to showcase three-dimensional pieces of art. Just to the right of your tall window would be a great place to put a 12-foot-tall bookcase with a



PHOTOS COURTESY PROJECT DESIGN INTERIORS

Artist Randy Myter created a rendering of designer Cindy Payne's vision for the family room with tall windows and a fireplace.

library ladder.

Lighting is very important in every environment. I've added recessed ceiling lights to shine on your wall art, a torchiere lamp to give the room some added light and a reading lamp beside your chair.

I've kept your wall colors warm and simple. By using various shades

of gold, we keep the energy in the room inviting while allowing you the opportunity to bring in fantastic artwork that will get all the attention it deserves.

My goal for your room is to make it as functional as it is beautiful. I hope this rendering helps you to visualize how lovely the room can be.

DEAR DESIGNER: Why don't designers do more renderings to show what a room will look like when it is done? — Just wondering.

DEAR WONDERING: With all of the electronic programs on the market today, I believe you will soon see more designers using 3-D systems to show their clients what a room can look like when it is complete.

However, even using these wonderful new computer programs can be very time consuming. When doing a perspective drawing of your vision, you must specify every item in order to show it correctly. Sizes as well as color and texture must be decided and relayed to the program.

The perspective rendering accompanying this article was done by a professional artist, Randy Myter, who does all of his work by hand. He takes all the fabrics, elevations and floor plans from



The floor plan for the redesigned room allows for easy access throughout the area.

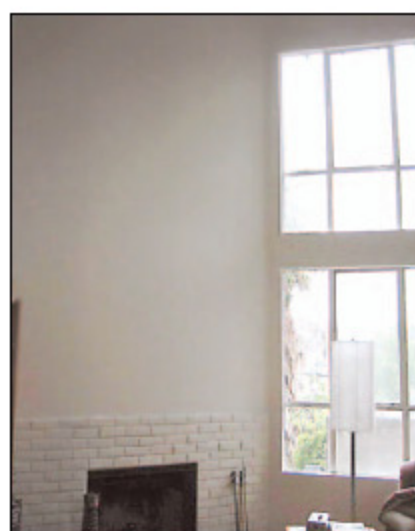
architects and designers and renders beautiful perspectives.

Purchasing a rendering such as this can cost \$1,200 or more. Most residential clients choose not to pay for it. Because of the expense we tend to see more perspectives rendered in commercial design.

Cindy Payne is a certified interior designer with more than 25 years of experience, as well as a licensed contractor. E-mail questions to her at deardesigner@projectdesigninteriors.com or send them to her at Project Design Interiors, 2620 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 189, Las Vegas, NV 89109. She can be reached online at www.projectdesigninteriors.com.



A bookcase houses books, entertainment components and pieces of three-dimensional art.



A brick fireplace that has been painted and two windows stacked to cover most of the wall in the high-ceiling room pose a decorating challenge.