

Living Room

One of the most important spaces in a house, a living room should always feel inviting. Chances are, yours needs an update. Good news: You don't have to commit to a total redo. (A nice thing, since it can cost as much as \$40,000.)

For a little drama—or to divide up a space—consider drapery, says Birkerts. Buy premade velvet or lined silk panels, or purchase fabric and ask your local tailor to sew simple panels. *Artemis curtain, 57 by 110 inches, \$238, and Alma G3 stainless steel curtain rod, finials, and brackets, \$199, Madura, 144 Newbury St., Boston, 617-267-0222, madurahome.com. NEW DRAPERY: \$437*



“Color can make a big impact when used in unexpected places, such as inside shelves and bookcases, or as a frame around artwork,” says Birkerts. Ceilings painted with vibrant colors draw the eye upward, often making a room feel larger. “It’s small real estate that produces a big effect.” It’s also one of the least expensive upgrades around. *Three gallons of Benjamin Moore paint plus materials, \$145, and labor, \$900, Associated Painters, 365 Boston Post Rd., Ste. 353, Sudbury, 508-879-3060, associatedpainters.com. REPAINTING: \$1,045*

Finding art that speaks to you (and matches your décor) is time-consuming. Fine recommends hiring a consultant to act as your advocate. “They can find terrific work for less than the standard gallery offerings,” she says. And they’ll bring works to your home and help you place them. *“Beach Walk Series” by Tim Beavis (acrylic, graphite, wax pastel, and paint on gessoed paper on wood); untitled monotype by Lynn Peterfreund; “TicTac” by Linda Batchelor (monotype and collage on paper); Jacqueline Becker Fine Arts, 261 Franklin St., Newton, 617-527-6169, beckerfinearts.com. Includes all art, framing, installation, and consulting. TOTAL ART UPGRADE: \$6,000*



“Beautiful pillows are like jewels for a black dress,” says Duffy, who recommends pillows be 50 percent feather and 50 percent down. *Kevin O’Brien Studio silver Obi pillows, small, \$115 each, and large, \$225 each, D Scale, 520 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-426-1055, dscalemodern.com. 4 NEW PILLOWS: \$680*

“People often dismiss an otherwise fine piece of furniture because they’re put off by the upholstery,” say the Katzes. “Cloth can often cover the ‘good bones’ of a piece—and chances are, you’ll tire of a fabric long before a sofa.” They recommend using tightly woven linens. *Sofa re-covering: \$1,000–\$1,500 for labor, plus cost of fabric (\$20 and up per square yard; most sofas need 19–25 yards). Chair re-covering: \$900–\$1,300 for labor, plus cost of fabric (\$20 and up per square yard; most chairs need 8–12 yards). REUPHOLSTERING ONE SOFA AND TWO CHAIRS: \$3,500 and up*



DRAPERY

PAINT

ART

PILLOWS

FURNITURE