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## Local decorator "redesigns" on a budget

By *Cindy Mindell*

Published: Wednesday, September 24, 2008 1:30 PM EDT

WEST HARTFORD - Just because the economy is hobbled doesn't mean you can't spruce up your living space. So says Jan Weinstein, founder of The Spirited Design and a certified practitioner of the popular "redesign" trend.

"My work is more than just a business to me," Weinstein says. "More than ever, in these uncertain times, we need to create and beautify the spaces we live or work in to help us feel more peaceful in our lives. My goal is to help figure out what these things may be and to assist my clients in surrounding themselves with things that bring them joy."

A Windsor Locks native, Weinstein has lived in West Hartford since 1980. She is a member of Beth El Temple, where she became an adult bat mitzvah at age 40. She served on the sisterhood board for many years until this year, and still helps decorate the bimah for Sukkot.

Weinstein started The Spirited Design in 2000 as a budget accessorizing company, which has evolved to offer full-service decorating. "Although I have a knack for creating a beautiful room on any sized budget, I enjoy shopping for my clients, and sharing with them the 'good deals' I find," she says. "I also honor someone's budget, and don't like to tempt them with things outside their comfort zone."

Weinstein is a self-taught decorator who says she started redecorating as a child, "always changing my room and artwork around, painting furniture, and of course, doll houses." She first learned about "redesign" - decorating with existing furnishings and accessories - on HGTV's "Decorating Cents." "I found the whole concept appealing, as I know that many people, like myself, desire an immediate change," she says. "That's what you get with a redesign. There is a definite sense of immediate gratification when you come home to your newly arranged room."

After completing a course at the School of Interior Redesign in Brookfield, Weinstein became certified in redesigns and home staging in 2005. She is a member of Interior Redesign Industry Specialists (IRIS).

Recent economic troubles have drawn attention to the affordable interior-design technique, and Weinstein says that she has received more calls for budget-minded services.

"I have noticed more interest in learning about redesigns, as well as creating rooms while spending less: changing paint color, purchasing readymade window treatments as a first option over custom-made, etc.," she says. "As my clients know, I will always look for the most cost effective way to bring powerful changes to their rooms."

Redesign is a fun and very cost-effective way to feel real changes in a room, Weinstein says. After an initial \$75 consultation, a redesign starts at \$350 per room, and usually takes three to four hours.

Clients laud Weinstein's eye for color and knack for effective and inviting furniture arrangement. In addition to more requests for affordable design, Weinstein notes the color trends of troubled times: Calming neutral tones have made a comeback, and serene grays and yellows are in demand.

Visit [www.thespiriteddesign.com](http://www.thespiriteddesign.com) for photos of a redesign and more information on Jan Weinstein's work.

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