

BONNIE KRIMS



COLOR CONSULTING

as seen in:

# THE BOSTON GLOBE MAGAZINE

Sunday, October 24, 2010



**SPRAY IT ON**  
Metal furniture looks instantly modern when covered with bright paint.



**THE PERFECT FRAME**  
Add some drama by painting windowills and sashes different colors.

renewed modernism," says Lyden Director of The Fabrics House on Broadway. Both Target and Home Depot have had skirts for about \$15, making it possible — with just a few sewing skills under your belt — to make window treatments for less than \$40.

**Decorative pretty looks in half the price.** Flip a decorative wall panel from white to fresh green to make a simple curtain backdrop. "At night, you just attach [the curtain] and walk — instant privacy," says Boston interior designer Vicki McDonagh.

**Refresh a window draper's look.** Schleich a wooden blind by using a decorative look as an end

you can add a modern fix with clear nickel, or rustic with forged iron, and even a bit traditional with glass," says Jill Suleberg, who sells home-goods accessories, retail for \$200 in the South End and Westside. Do your own like Susan Starob let after each window looks for less than \$1 each. Rather than covering the blinds into the blind, attach it with a strong adhesive, like E-6000 multipurpose glue.

**Decorate paper shades.** Peel and stick paper translucent window shades aren't exactly design-forward. But you can turn these throwaway shades into a full-blown decorating project with some water-based paints. Let

on their own by printing a design on the paper. For a postcard effect, attach the shades open and white paint over the paper, and let it dry. And because the shades stick to the window with a window sill built-in adhesive strips, they're easy to remove.

**Refresh the Furniture**  
**Put up a little dirt.** Conceal decorative paper to shower fronts for a burst of color and pattern. Buy Madrilis, or some of Royal Road Paper Company on Beacon Hill, with a selection of hand-printed and layered papers (\$12.50

staff can help you select a job that will respond well to the dry air that's in the room — or the humidity — and might not affect the paint. And because the shades stick to the window with a window sill built-in adhesive strips, they're easy to remove.

**Create a shabby-chic looking screen.** An easy way to add color to a room is to use a screen. Buy a screen that's made of metal frames at the top and bottom of these panels. Lightly buff old screens with a rough sandpaper to remove all the paint, and you'll have a screen to add splashes of color. You can find screens to use on a shelf for about \$25 a pop at an architectural salvage shop. Or try buying a new one. They often cost less than



## Treat Them Right

- **Paint just the windowsills.** "To add tremendous atmosphere to any room, consider painting the windowsills and sashes," says Concord-based color consultant Bonnie Krims. "The color doesn't have to be bright or bold to make a big impact." Krims suggests looking to furniture and accessories in the room to find the right shade of paint, and even bringing a favorite item to the paint shop to get the color right.

## Go Green

- **Add color to a room with houseplants.** "Buy a plant instead of another home accessory and see how your room becomes more colorful, naturally," says Concord color consultant Bonnie Krims. "They often have fascinating leaf shapes and can even serve as a focal point."