



## Bridgewater firm has the cure for makeover madness

BY JORDAN EIBLE

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If you've watched any television lately, you know we live in a makeover-obsessed world. Everyone's getting new haircuts and wardrobes and outlooks and lives. But what can you do when your home becomes drab, dingy and outdated?

Well, talking to Myles Albert maybe a good place to start.

"They call me when they're ready for a change—and change is good," says Albert, owner of Interior Excellence in Bridgewater. He has 25 years' experi-

ence in design consulting and contracting.

Albert calls himself a one-stop-design-shop. His firm creates new looks from start to finish. Interior Excellence specializes in designing entirely new spaces, but it can also add small touches, such as crown molding, light fixtures and new tile floors to give old rooms a new look.

"There's no job too small," he says.

Although he does have a \$300 minimum, the designer is willing to work within anyone's budget, and his own kitchen shows this. He gave his dark wood cabinets a fresh look with a light-colored faux finish, and he replaced the center panels with etched glass. He eliminated the 8-inch gap between the cabinets and ceiling and added molding. He also painted the aged finish on his refrigerator and dishwasher, creating a uniform look throughout the space.

"This is an example of remodeling a kitchen on a budget. A small to mid-sized kitchen can have this done for less than \$2,000," he says.

Faux finishes seem to be his forte and are showcased in his Bridgewater home. He often uses the satin, suede and crackle techniques made famous by Ralph Lauren.

"These faux finishes give the most design bang for your buck. Paint is the key to the whole industry, and there's no replacement for quality," which is why Albert says he uses quality brands such as Benjamin Moore.

Making over a room

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doesn't require starting from scratch. Albert says most of his customers keep their existing carpets and furniture.

"The core of a design goes way past the furniture and into the windows and lighting. It's those little things that the average person might overlook, and one of the greatest problems in a home is not enough light," Albert says.

New paint and decorative light fixtures can help combat this. Another option to increase light is transforming bland walls by hiring Albert's team, which includes a muralist.

Consultations are free if clients hire Interior Excellence to complete the contract work. Estimates are usually given within 24 hours of the initial consultation.

Myles Albert can be reached at (908) 218-0200.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY JOHNSON

Designer Myles Albert, owner of Interior Excellence in Bridgewater, stands with his wife, Caryn, in their Bridgewater home.

