



SEASONAL SWITCHES

Times change and your bedroom needs to keep up. Swap out color accents to accommodate the seasons

By **MORGAN MCMILLAN** | CTW FEATURES

You may hate to admit it, but it's true - summer is on its way out.

With those unavoidable seasonal changes come necessary home décor adjustments, but they don't have to be major alterations if you plan ahead.

Karen Blissenbach, member of ASID and principal designer for Rochester, Minn.-based Design Studio B, says, "You have to have a master plan."

Flexibility to change depends on how much money you're willing to invest, she adds. But, if you're not looking to spend a lot, your options are by no means limited. Here are a few tips to get you thinking about seasonal switch-ups that will give your bedroom a more appealing air.

Back It Up

"It would all start with what your background palette is," says Blissenbach. "Start with a strong, neutral background - and I'm not talking about white. When I say strong background, I mean a very toned shade of taupe or cream."

Also, to keep costs down, Laura Kimball, of Perry Hall, Md.-based LCK Interiors, suggests building around a solid color accent wall behind the headboard or one small area of wallpaper. "If crown molding can be added

and painted with a clean, crisp white, it makes any other color in the room pop," says the ASID designer.

Look Down

"Depending on the flooring, if you have a situation where you can use an area rug, it can make a significant change from season to season," says Blissenbach. Whether that means solid-colored, bold and bright or patterned, using an area rug will draw your eye down and expand your view of the room as a whole.

Welcome the Light

While Kimball suggests that you consider your privacy in picking window treatments, some window décor can be easy to switch out or add to if you want to include another color.

"If you have a situation where there are permanent shades, maybe in the winter months, add drapes; and in the summer and spring months, go with sheer," Blissenbach suggests.

"With seasonal changes," reminds Kimball, "you don't want to switch out things that are heavy and need to be stored."

That's why small color accents like pillows and picture frames will save you time and energy when the next change in season comes around.

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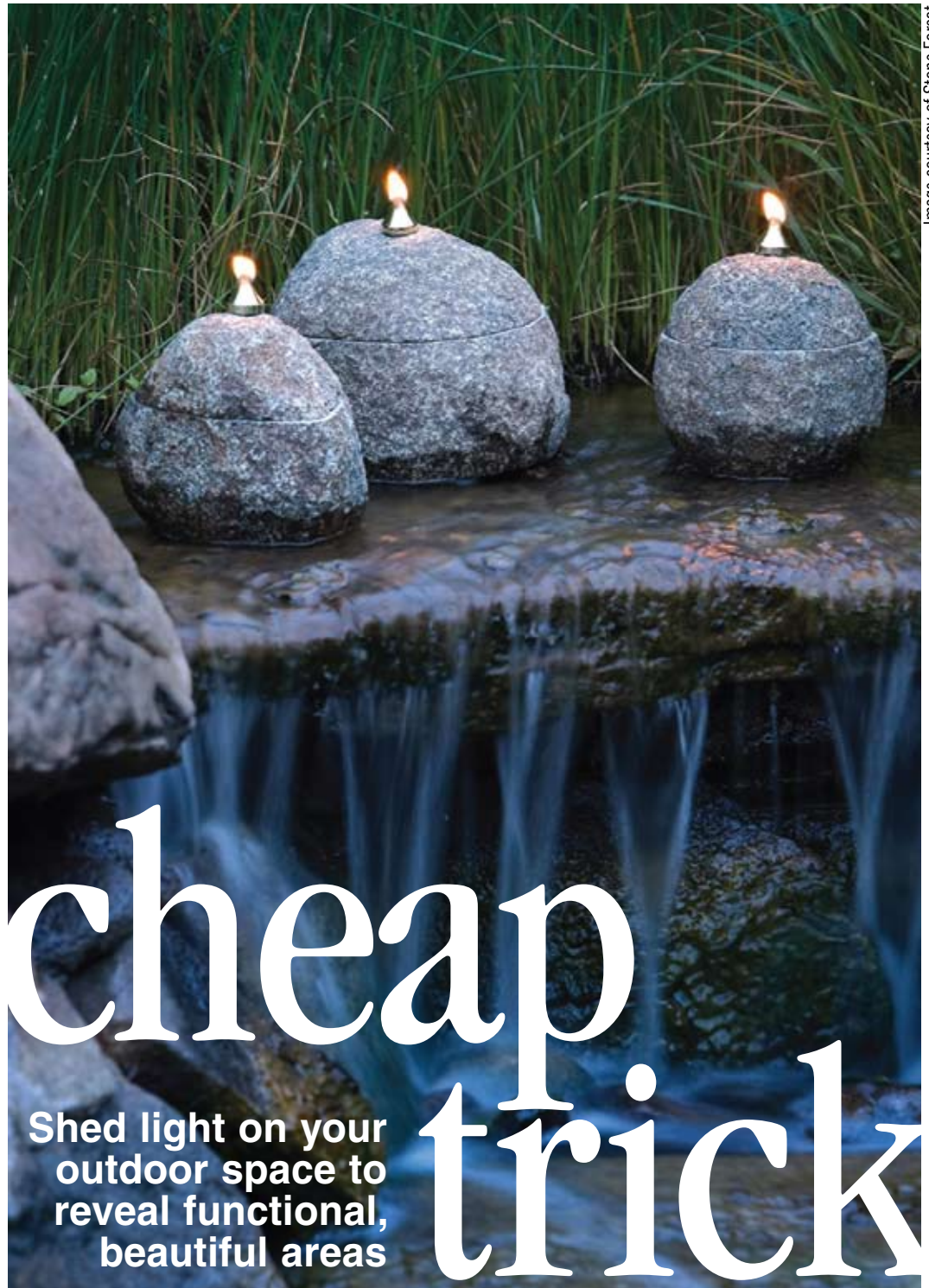


Image courtesy of Stone Forest

By **MIRIELLE CAILLES** | CTW FEATURES

Elegance and function in a contemporary outdoor lighting solution can come at a high price these days. But a tight budget doesn't have to impede ambitions for either when choosing outdoor lights for your home. From the patio to the poolside, all your lighting needs have trendy options that will fit your budget and make your outdoor space glow.

"Tiki torch lighting, colored paper lanterns, glass lanterns, twinkle light and hurricane lamps are all cost-effective and stylish solutions for lighting any outdoor area," Christina MacDonald, publicity director of Studio City, Calif.-based DRS & Associates.

If you have a garden, consider placing outdoor torches around it to create a tropical setting. This is a favorite trick of Vicki O'Neal, owner of Form and Function, a Richmond, Va.-based interior and landscape design firm. The flame of a tiki torch can be fueled with oil or gas and should always be extinguished when your outdoor area will be unoccupied for long periods of time.

When applied safely, candles can add inexpensive, calming décor to any outdoor space. South Florida-based celebrity design expert Kathy Peterson likes to couple candles with antique dishes to create unique stands. Create faux chan-

deliers by hanging votives with hand wire or hang a candle fixture on a wall to add some outdoor lighting. O'Neal says that it's important to place candles away from artificial lighting so they will get the attention you want, avoid fire mishaps by keeping candles on a secure surface in an enclosed holder or lantern.

If you're looking for a safer alternative, battery-operated candle pillars create the same ambience, sans the risk, Peterson says. Another stylish and affordable solution is the Wabi Oil Lamp from Stone Forest, a company that produces Japanese-style granite sculptures for kitchens, baths and gardens. At \$39, the Wabi Oil lamp is a small granite boulder with a hollowed interior for oil and wick which doubles as a candle.

"These lamps can be clustered together on an outdoor dining table or they can be used to accent a coy pond, fountain or any outdoor water feature," says Michael Zimmer, president of Santa Fe, N.M.-based Stone Forest. "They can also be used inside on the mantle or any other place you'd use a candle."

For a do-it-yourself solution to light outdoor areas, create your own paper lantern. There are many how-to guides that allow you to customize your outdoor lighting décor, and you can also purchase one at a low cost.

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Image courtesy of Design Studio B

Re-energize your home *Create harmony and balance in any home with the power of Feng Shui*

By **NINA YUN** | CTW FEATURES

Want to add a little Feng Shui to your humdrum home? Not sure if you just pronounced the ancient Chinese art form correctly? Whether you're just unsure where to put that loveseat or are trying to store seasonal décor, there's a Feng Shui solution waiting for you. (By the way, it's pronounced Fuhng Shwey.)

1 Owner of Chicago-based Feng Shui Design, Pam Tollefson advises not to store anything underneath furniture, so chi can circulate around the room freely. "You don't want stuck energy," Tollefson says. "Also, it just looks messy."

2 The door is the "mouth" or "gateway" for chi, or energy says Reiko Gomez, owner of Reiko Feng Shui Interior Design based in New York City. Gomez, whose expertise was featured in an episode of "Kimora: Life in the Fab Lane," says keep the doorway clear so energy doesn't get blocked.

3 Avoid bright colors for your bedroom, keep it neutral. "Most people want romance in the bedroom and red is the associated color, but don't paint your bedroom walls red. It's over kill. Most people can't sleep," says Gomez. "A bedroom should feel relaxing and calming. Use colors in accents in a rug, pillow or other small details."

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