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ABOVE: These silk pillows are hand-painted and add a tropical flair to this couch by Brown Jordan. **RIGHT:** Lamps with details such as this one's crystal fringe are hot items, according to Honolulu interior designers, and can brighten your home in more ways than one.

Decor update

Break the '90s hold on your home with a few easy changes

By **Kauī Philpotts**
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It usually hits you all at once. You're sitting at home minding your own business, and suddenly you realize you are in 2002 and your house looks, well, 1992. It's like a beige-on-beige hotel room. Like Chris Hemmeter was your decorator.

Houses are a little like clothes. You change, your tastes change and, if it matters to you, fashions change. It's time, you say, for a makeover.

But where do you begin? And how can you get a really new look in your living space with as little fuss and expense as possible?

■ **First, junk the junk.** See clutter as your enemy, says Elise Yates, a Honolulu interior designer. Get rid of things that have negative memories for you. If you're having a hard time deciding what to keep and what to toss, ask yourself if you'd buy that item today. Attack the piles that grow on coffee tables, desks and in corners. Donate the tossed items or plan a yard sale.



YATES: Clutter is your enemy, designer says

for a one-time job. ■ **Step back.** Now you can see what you've got to work with.

If the task seems overwhelming, says Yates, take one room at a time and evaluate its purpose. Ask yourself how it makes you feel and how it needs to function.

If you like to read there, is there a comfortable place to sit? Is there proper lighting? For reading spaces, architect and interior designer Nancy Peacock recommends the new creative storage options for newspapers and magazines, found in places such as Pier 1, Costco and mail-order catalogs. Handwoven rattan or bamboo boxes look contemporary right now, she says.

Another question to ask yourself: Are you a city person living in a country space? Or maybe vice versa?