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Map for a makeover

Designer's blueprint allows client to proceed at own pace

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Buy light-colored pillows. Check.
Hang the map in an ornate frame. Check.
Find two lamps to flank the map, with crystal or glass bases. Check.
Paint the living room a shade lighter or darker than the dining room. Hmmm. Keep that on hold until the budget allows. Next.

By the time Jennifer Verdecchia checks off everything on her decorating to-do list, she'll have a professionally designed home with a do-it-yourself touch.

Rather than pay an interior designer to give her Morningside home an extreme makeover, Verdecchia hired designer Cinda Boomershine to create a blueprint she can implement at her own pace.

"We don't have infinite means. I had a budget I had to work with, and Cinda totally respected that."



Creating a living room vignette with a framed map and lamps on either side was in the plan that designer Cinda Boomershine created for Jennifer Verdecchia.

notes Verdecchia, who hired Boomershine shortly after she and her husband, Drew, bought the 1930s Tudor three years ago. There's still more decorating to be done, but Verdecchia, who is self-employed, is tackling it one recommendation at a time.

Taking a no-pressure approach to interior design is what Boomershine is known for.

For a \$350 consultation fee, she'll walk through a client's entire house and make notes about what they can do to spruce it up.

Since Boomershine spends much of her time designing travel bags, doing room makeovers for TBS' "Movie and a Makeover" and traveling with her husband, she prefers consultations to long-term design projects.

"I'm giving them guidelines and instructions," explains Boomershine. "Once they have the focus and direction, they get it done. It's fun to see, because people get so much confidence and take ownership in the project."

While designers

planning and executing projects from start to finish, including working with architects, contractors and vendors, shopping for furniture, fabric and accessories, coordinating renovations and designing specialty areas such as kitchens and baths.

Boomershine limits her scope, but she does give clients suggestions on where they can buy the merchandise she recommends in the blueprint. Later, if she sees something she believes will fit perfectly in a client's home, she doesn't hesitate to call them. Boomershine also makes some improvement recommendations and offers tips on hiring a contractor.

"If she didn't share her resources," says Verdecchia, "the likelihood of getting these things done would take much longer."

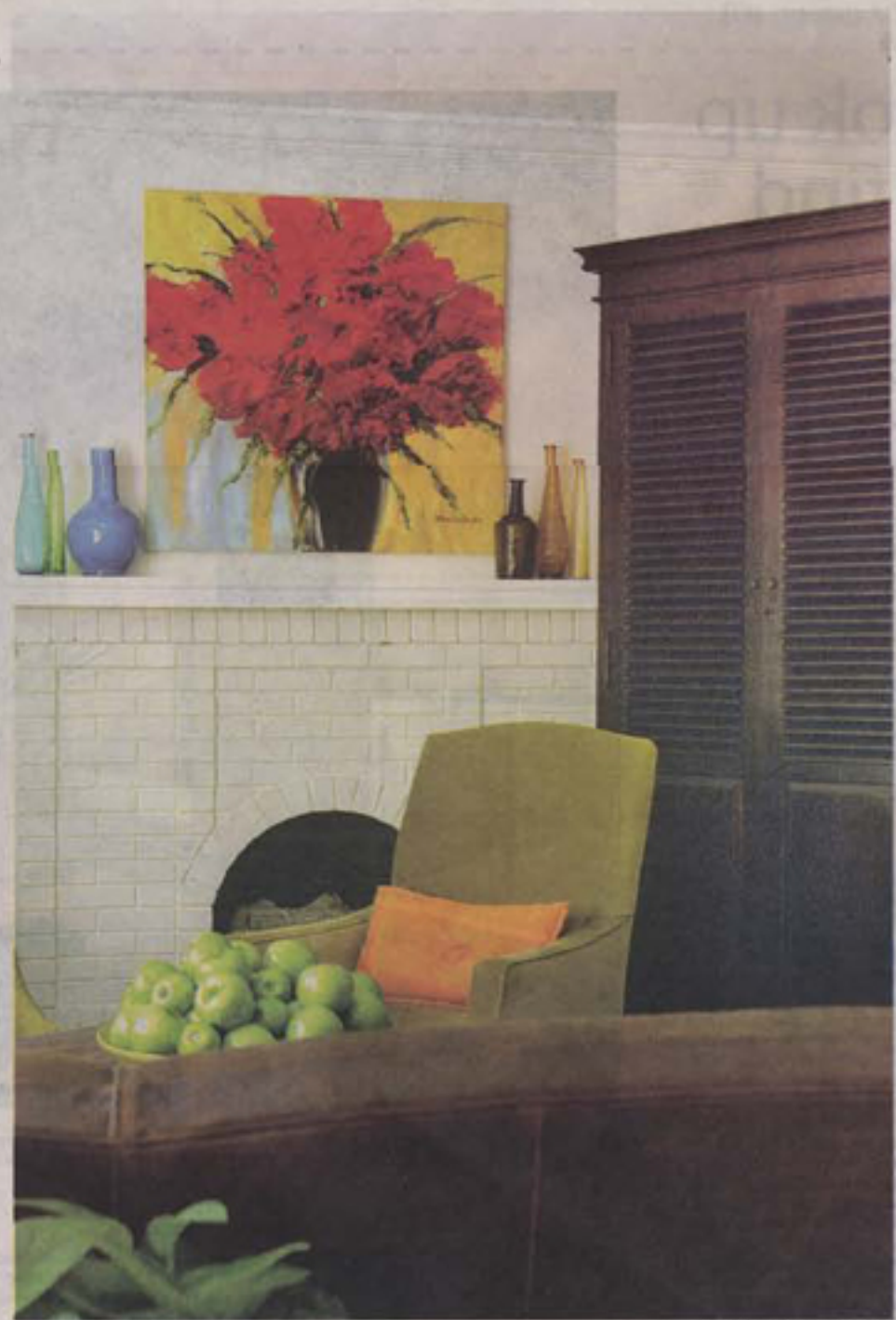
Typically, Boomershine offers consultation services, their bread and butter comes from

Jennifer Verdecchia (right) likes Cinda Boomershine's no-pressure approach to decorating (www.cindab.com). "If something's not right for us, Cinda says OK, let's move on to Plan B."

Verdecchia had a beautiful copper dining table but needed chairs to place around it. She also wanted a fancy chandelier. Boomershine suggested the iron light fixture and high-back velvet chairs.



Verdecchia's master bedroom is still a work in progress. She inherited an ornate mantel from a friend but didn't have anywhere to put it. At Boomershine's recommendation, the mantel was bolted to the bedroom wall, giving the illusion of a fireplace.



Photos by JOEY FANSCO / Staff

Verdecchia's husband, Drew, is hooked on this picture of a fish, and wanted it prominently displayed in the home. Verdecchia was hesitant until Boomershine suggested placing it on a wall at the landing of the staircase, with a hook hanging from the ceiling. Now, both husband and wife are happy.

Knowing exactly what scale and color of wood she needed made it easier for Verdecchia to select an armoire to conceal the TV. Boomershine also suggested what color and shape vases would look best with the art above the mantel. A decorative trim suggested for the fireplace was put on hold.