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## TIME AFTER TIME

### TAKE YOUR HOME FROM DATED TO RETRO CHIC

Some of the most memorable past fashion trends made their way back into the style pages this season. And the good news is that just as you revived your wardrobe, you can do the same with the rooms in your place. In love with that '70s shag rug you swiped from your childhood home? Fond memories of the special chair that you curled up in to talk for hours to your high school friends? Don't despair—there's a fresh way to incorporate your favorite eras into your home without dating your space.

"If you have an old antique piece and you put something bold and exciting on that, you've changed its whole interpretation," says Teri D'Amico, principal designer of D'Amico Design Associates in Miami. "Reupholstering a chair with a new piece of fabric brings a whole new life to an old chair. And it allows you to make that combination of something new that you liked from something old."

To start a room redesign, D'Amico says it's always better to start with one bold subject and work from there. She adds that her preference is often for painting the walls.

"The first and boldest thing you can do

is paint the room," she says. "There are colors associated with different periods—like avocado might be more '70s."

After finding your essential design points, you can work your way around the room, marrying the old with the new. In addition to finding modern, chic takes on your favorite past looks, D'Amico suggests everything from repainting furniture and applying new hardware on cabinetry to hanging lighting that's reminiscent of an older era or placing current, contrasting accessories to add an edge to an old room.

"The bolder you go, the more drama and the more beautiful it's going to be, but there is a fine line when putting two pieces together," she says. "If you can't picture the two images together, you know what the solution is: you have to try it out."

But D'Amico warns that even though your new retro-chic design gives you the freedom to dwell in the past a little longer, holding on to every sentimental item is not always that aesthetically pleasing. For this, she offers some tough love: "We are not saying throw it away, but put it away." At least until pea-green shag rugs truly make a comeback.

—Nina Hemphill

