

SPRINGTIME

HACKING IKEA

**INTERIORS READY FOR
SPRING WITH KATIE BALDWIN**

**INSIDE BUNNY WILLIAMS'
LATEST RENOVATION**

**HOW MICHAEL TRAPP'S
DESIGNS BREAK THE RULES**

**FROM THE GARDEN TO
THE MARKET, WHAT'S
YOUR ECO IMPACT?**

The Bright View From A Designer's Window

By Anne Day

Yes, people do change winter slipcovers for summer ones, said Lakeville interior designer Katie Baldwin, when I asked her about affordable ways to brighten the house for spring and summer. Though I was with Baldwin to learn about window treatments — she managed to slip in lots of other hints for brightening up a winter-tired house. More on that later.

Baldwin, a graduate of Salisbury Central, Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Fashion Institute of Technology, had worked in fashion merchandising in New York and San Francisco for years and said she's now happy to be back home

and designing living spaces for old friends and new friends. After working with "an amazing mentor and inspiration," New York/Salisbury/Florida interior designer Robin Bell, Katie has been in business as an interior decorator for five years. Though about 75 percent of her clients are weekenders, Baldwin also loves to help people who want to live here on a budget with their home decorating needs.

One way to date a house, Baldwin said, is to hang on to old-fashioned window treatments. The heavy chintz drapes of the '80s and '90s have given

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PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

Interior designer Katie Baldwin was mentored by celebrated designer Robin Bell before opening her own studio in Lakeville.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

Linen shades are a specialty of Baldwin, who enjoys their simplicity.

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way to simplicity — natural fabric shades, wooden blinds and sheer curtains without heavy valances. Sometimes, said Baldwin, when privacy isn't an issue, a naked window is best.

This designer said updating windows doesn't have to be expensive — making small changes makes a big difference. Using new fun colorful fabrics — or just adding trim to existing window treatments can be a room-changer. She suggested removing a heavy valance that blocks too much light.

Baldwin loves using linen shades for simplicity and light. Also, she said, "I love how fresh bamboo shades look in a garden

room or a sun porch." Baldwin is flexible with her clients and she said, "I have a few custom window workrooms that I work with that can do custom shades for any room — roman shades, custom blinds — whatever works in that space. I have a huge library of fabrics so we can work with the colors already in the rooms." She likes to design window treatments with performance fabrics so that the sun does not damage the material. She also always recommends lining the fabric to prevent sun damage and to increase the amount of blockage when they are pulled shut.

On a visit to a client's newly



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

Leaving behind the heavy drapes of the past, Baldwin's recommendation for windows is to let the light in.

purchased house in Lakeville, Baldwin showed me a before and after. In a room she has not worked on yet, the windows were covered by heavy damask drapes which puddle onto the floor and were topped by a matching heavy valance — even with the curtains open, very little light got in. In the room Baldwin has just finished designing, the natural colored linen shades were pulled up to let the afternoon light in and the place felt bright and inviting, and one sensed that spring is around the corner.

Though window treatments are a relatively inexpensive way to brighten a room, there are even more inexpensive and less permanent ways, like changing out your pillows or changing

the accent color. In her Lakeville office, Baldwin's working with navy and saffron but if she wanted to change the warm mood of the saffron-accented room, she'd swap the saffron throws, pillows and vases for some similar accessories in a fresh springy citron green — suddenly you'd have an entirely new feeling in the room.

Baldwin is a decorator who prefers to collaborate rather than dictate. She said, "I like partnering with clients, I want to help people realize their vision — to bring their dream to life — not mine. It's all about collaborating."

Katie Baldwin Designs is in Lakeville. For more information call 917-536-5365 or go to www.katiebaldwindesigns.com