

# How to

## UPDATE A TRADITIONAL HOME TO A MORE CONTEMPORARY LOOK

The simplicity of contemporary form mixed with classic details leads to a look that is inspiring and eye-pleasing. This is a good way to update an older home. You don't have to get rid of all your traditional furniture. You can mix soft contemporary upholstered pieces and contemporary artwork. When done with the design principles of balance, variety, and harmony, it can have great appeal.



**UPDATE LAMPS & SHADES.** Dated lamps can bring down the style of a room in a flash. A decade ago, the market was glutted with lots of cheap lamps that have not stood the test of time. Replace these unremarkable pieces with sleeker lamps for a better style statement.

**INDOOR BLOOMS.** Add some greenery and fresh color to your indoors to freshen up traditional space and beat the winter blues.

**REDUCE THE CLUTTER.** "Modern" does not have to mean white walls, floors, and furnishings, and a stark environment. However, modern is clean and pared down. Delete the clutter and carefully choose the accessories, whatever style. Cutting back on ornate mismatched frames, accents, and arrangements, opens up a traditional space and makes it seem fresher and more airy.

**MIRRORS AND METALLICS.** Mirrors create the illusion of more space, and metallic-rimmed mirrors knock the effect up a notch. They are a great way to energize old traditional space.

**INTRODUCE COLOR!** One of the simplest ways to freshen up any home is to integrate bright colors. A rich canary yellow will feel decidedly modern, while a bright, soft mint green can create a youthful, yet still traditional look. Choose your own adventure.

**RE-IMAGINE FURNITURE.** A skirt on a sofa or chair is a traditional detail. Remove the skirt and add some simple tapered and stained wooden legs. Or tailor the skirts to avoid an old-fashioned look. Then, choose a large-scale print or more modern fabric, reupholster the piece, and voila. You will be shocked.

**MIX THINGS UP.** There is nothing wrong with mixing styles and textures. If you have an antique dining room set, for instance, keep the beautiful mahogany table and change up the wooden chairs for more modern sleek ones.

**ADD A FEW TRANSITIONAL ACCENTS.** An easy and inexpensive way to keep a traditional look new is to weave in a few transitional accents. We mix the most traditional of accents, like looking glasses, crystal water vases and silver candlesticks, with contemporary looks, like a bright orange ceramic vase.

*Susan Strauss Design is well established as a leading full service design firm, founded by principal, Susan Strauss. The firm has been creating luxurious living environments for clients of the most discerning tastes for over a decade. With a well earned reputation as one of the premier firms of the East Coast, SSD's client base is firmly built on referrals and repeat clients.*