



Marcia Stuart and her husband relocated to the Golden Isles from Colorado last year and downsized in the move. She found Rikansrud through the Glynn County Board of Realtors and enlisted her to assist in the arranging as they settle into their new home.

“It’s a work in progress,” Stuart says. “We’ve been unpacking a little at a time. We lost a bedroom, an office and a basement in the move.” To help achieve a comfortable flow, Stuart had Rikansrud go room-to-room with her to help with some very basic changes. Thus far in the process, they have added color to the breakfast nook and the dining room walls, rearranged items on living room shelves, and changed a major focal point in the living room. These small modifications have created dramatic improvements.

“I didn’t realize that the burnt peanut red paint in the dining room was clashing with my cherry wood furniture,” Stuart says.

By changing the color of the lower portion of the wall in the dining room to white, the beautiful furniture stands out more.

According to Rikansrud, one of the more common mistakes homeowners make is purchasing “trendy” furniture for a room.

“It’s much better to go with neutral colors for the furniture in any room,” she says. “If you want a trendy look, buy toss pillows and throws to add fun flavor to the room. Furniture is such a big investment. This way you can afford to change the accessories seasonally if you like.”

When a piece simply won’t work with the redesign, especially anchoring pieces such as tables or sofas, it’s a smart shopper’s market.

“Everyone is looking for deals and bargains right now and if you want to try a different look, (buying used furniture and accessories) gives people the opportunity without having to invest a lot of money,” says Liz Slapikas, owner of Take Too, a home furnishings consignment store in downtown Brunswick.

Slapikas says she’s seen an increase in the number of people shopping for gently used accessories and furniture to make changes in their décor.

“A lot of people who come in want a different look,” she says. “It can make a big difference if you can change one or two pieces in a room.” ■

