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Come in  
Small Packages*

## **Avoiding Sticker Shock**

Finding a starting point for a decorating project can be the most daunting part of a remodel. First, set aside an hour of time to devote to brainstorming about the room you want to change. Make a list of the improvements you want and the approximate time- frame for completing the room, whether its two weekends or two months.

Next, peruse through three or four current home interior magazines for ideas on wall colors, furniture placement, flooring, fabrics, lighting and accessories. Keep a file of the ideas you want to incorporate in your remodel. Knowing what you want to replace you can develop a budget using these guidelines:

Here are some of the costs for redesigning a 12 by 18 foot room with a closet, a window and a sliding glass door.

Painting: 2coats of paint on walls, ceiling and trim: \$700-\$1000  
Specialty paint finish (glazing) on one wall: \$500 plus  
Replace window coverings on slider: \$1900-\$5000  
Replace window coverings on other window: \$300-\$600  
40 yd. of carpet, pad and installation: \$2500-\$3500

Or

Hardwood flooring installed: \$4500  
Six recessed adjustable ceiling lights installed: \$1200  
Two floor lamps and a table lamp: \$600  
One 84"long sofa covered in micro fiber: \$2000- \$3500  
Two upholstered chairs: \$2400  
One coffee table: \$500-\$1000  
Entertainment cabinet for TV: \$2500-\$5600

Although custom-made products are a larger initial investment than generic furnishings, they often offer a more elegant solution to your particular room configuration and storage needs. By being aware of the basic costs of the components of a room, you will not have sticker shock when you make your selections. At this point, a designer can help you sort through the options that will work for your budget and time frame. Her objective viewpoint and referrals to reliable resources make the consultation a valuable investment.

**Written by Jean Cary for Redwood Shores Pilot Magazine 2007**