



- **First Granddaughter Update**
- **Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**
- **Fireplace Transformations**
- **New Year Humor & Wishes**

Your ONE-STOP Home Interiors Solution

Molli Bryn Update

My husband and I recently braved the Iowa weather and typical airline service to see our first granddaughter.

Since the weather was so bitterly cold, (temp never above 15° and wind never below 15 mph – vivid reminder of the major reason we moved from there 12 years ago) we had lots of time to cuddle and feed Molli.

Being good hosts, our son and daughter-in-law didn't ask either of us to change a diaper. Papa is mostly thankful for that.

As all of you fellow parents and grand-parents know, their lives have changed forever – which they realize also. They will be GREAT parents.



Four Generations – my dad “Bud”, son Brandon and *disinterested* first granddaughter Molli.



Nana and Molli enjoying bonding.

Betty Jones

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REFERRALS

Referrals are the lifblood of our business. Thanks to these recent referrals...

Ruth & Jim Barwick referred Jan Linn

Lori Behrman referred Kathie & Bill Wray

Fireplace Transformations

With what passes as winter upon us here in Southern Arizona, we thought it might be helpful to show you a few of the fireplace transformations we have done over the years. We often do not change out the firebox itself, just make it look totally different by changing the mantel, surround and sometimes the hearth.



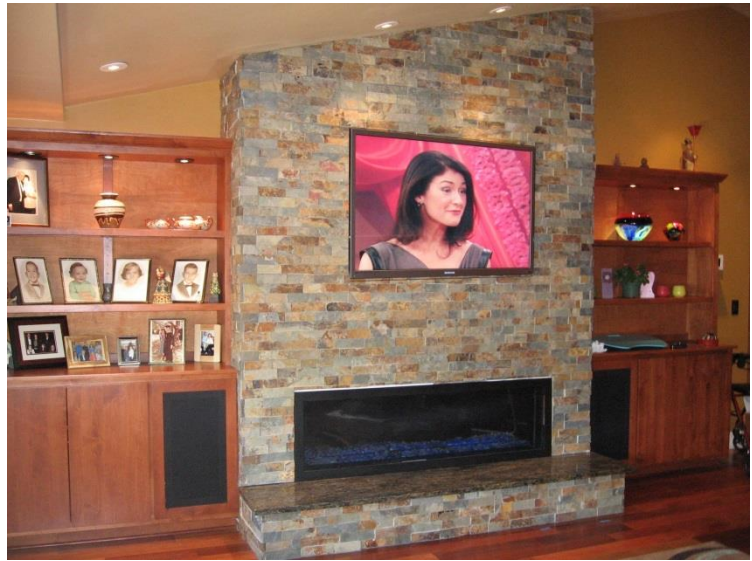
Petrified Log as Mantel

The use of this log mantel fit perfectly in the *VERY* western (we're talking John Wayne western) themed custom home we helped a client in the Phoenix area build.

Often our objective is to turn the fireplace from something the builder just stuck in the corner or to fill up a wall, to a focal point of the room.

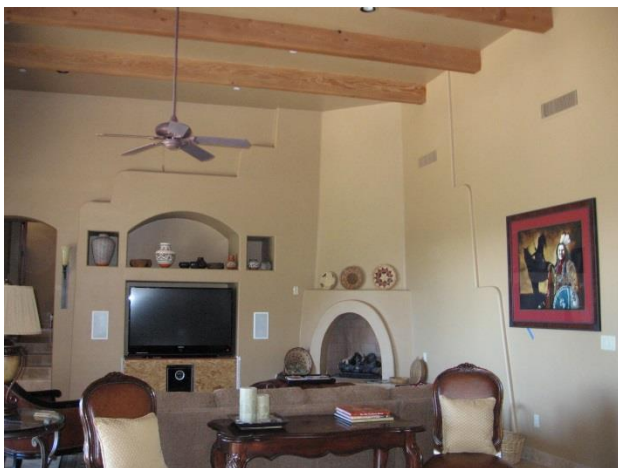
Our objectives in designing or redesigning any fireplace area are:

1. Be true to the design style of the room
2. The fireplace and surrounding space is also functional
3. Stay within the established budget



From Useless to Useful

This client had a mostly useless room off their garage that we transformed into an often used family room. The focal point of the room is this fireplace wall with custom cabinets/bookshelves. Note the built-in speakers in the cabinets on either side of the fireplace.



Builder Didn't Listen

The homeowner wanted an Old World look and feel to their family room and fireplace.

Evidently the only Old World this builder knew about was Southwest Old World.

BEFORE



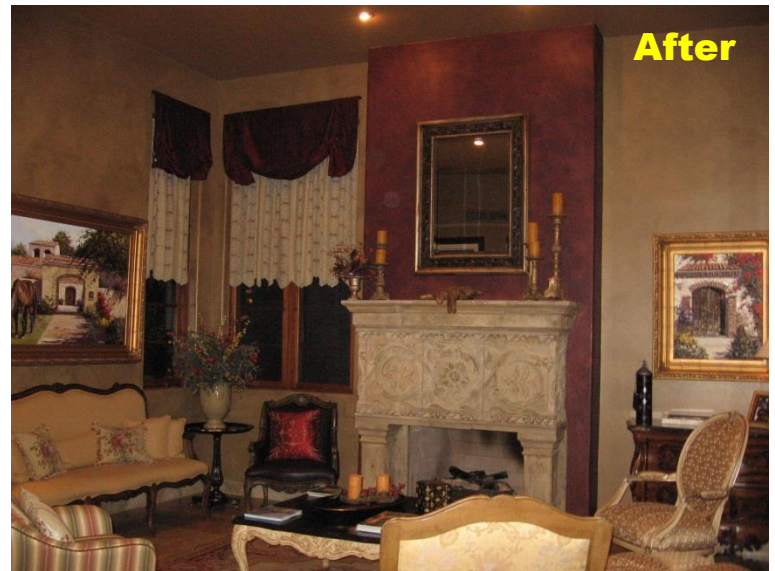
AFTER



Authentic Old World Look

We achieved the desired look and feel with cultured stone from floor to ceiling, along with a distressed wood mantel and an arched stone fireplace opening. We added the doors to cover the TV so the it wasn't the focal point of the room.

More Fireplace Ideas



From Sterile to Stunning

This client's style is definitely Old World Mediterranean, but their living room did not feel right to them. Their concrete fireplace surround looked like just that – concrete. We had our faux painter add some color highlights to give the appearance of centuries of use, like soot stains.

We also added much needed warm colors to the room, including the contrasting darker color above the fireplace. Notice we turned the mirror above the fireplace to a vertical orientation to add height. Just one of those little touches that a good designer will pick up on.

The French drapes on the windows were fun to design. We don't get an opportunity for such a design very often.



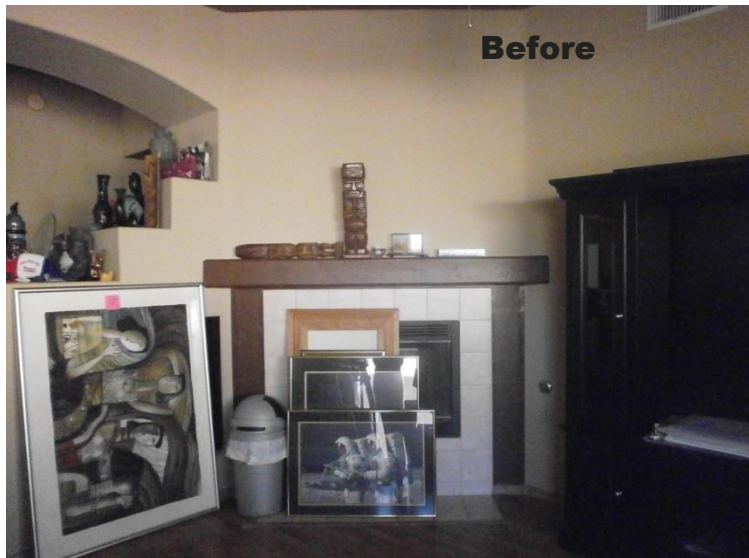
From Bland to Beautiful

The changes we made to this bland fireplace area transformed it from something that looked like an after-thought to the focal point of the room.

We added the tile surround; faux finished the mantel and pilasters to make them more noticeable and added the gas logs so it looked a real fireplace, not just a box. Capped off by painting the wall a warm vibrant red to compliment and accent the red tile.



No fireplace feature would be complete without the stunning design we did for our Street of Dreams home.



From What? to Wonderful

The changes we made to this fireplace area were part of a nearly whole home makeover. As you can see, the homeowner didn't really know what to do with the fireplace area.

The homeowner wanted a more contemporary look and feel throughout the home. This can be a tough task when so many of our Tucson area homes are built for a Southwest / Mexican / Santa Fe look and feel.

For this client, we deleted everything around the fireplace, other than the mantel, which we changed the color of. To enhance the 10 ft. ceiling height, we ran the 6"x12" metallic tiles in a vertical pattern. We also added thin horizontal glass tiles randomly to create interest and enhance the contemporary look.

