



## design on a dime and a dollar

by sue angell

**FANS** of the hit TV series "Design on a Dime" know a team of creative designers can turn a lackluster room into something chic and inviting for less than \$1,000. But is budget decorating strictly the province of design experts, or can the average homeowner achieve a comparable look with a little ingenuity and elbow grease?

"The four basic tenets of good design are color, texture, balance, and proportion," says Mitchell Sotka, owner of the

eponymous antique store in Rocky River. "As long as you remember these four guiding principles, you will see stunning results."

So, where should homeowners begin the re-design process? First, says Sotka, focus on what you need in the room and get rid of the rest. "Start with the basics. If you're redoing a living room, make sure you have a good sofa and some quality lamps. The accessories can come later."

