

MAKEOVER

FROM PAGE G1

the bed some weight.

Lighting. She kept the couple's lamps but replaced the cheetah print lamp shades. She found inexpensive white shades and applied red paint and glaze to give the room a romantic glow.

Bed and window treatments. Soward said she got a great deal on the bedspread — \$59.99 at Burlington Coat Factory. It's a queen bed, but she bought a king-size bedspread because she knew the couple plans to buy a larger bed.

For the windows, she didn't have enough in the budget for curtain rods, so instead she mounted fabric on boards, attached fringe and ribbon, and hung the pieces as window treatments.

She then attached fabric at the ceiling to hang to the floor on both sides of the bed, using tiebacks in the middle of the canopies.

The sheer fabric gives the room a light look, makes the bed its own island, and separates the wall hangings.

Plants. She took a cheap white plastic urn and painted it to look like stone. Then she found an artificial tree for \$9.99 in the Christmas clearance section at Garden Ridge, put it in the urn and placed it in the corner.

She filled a vase the couple already had with curly sticks she collected in the yard and placed it in the other corner.

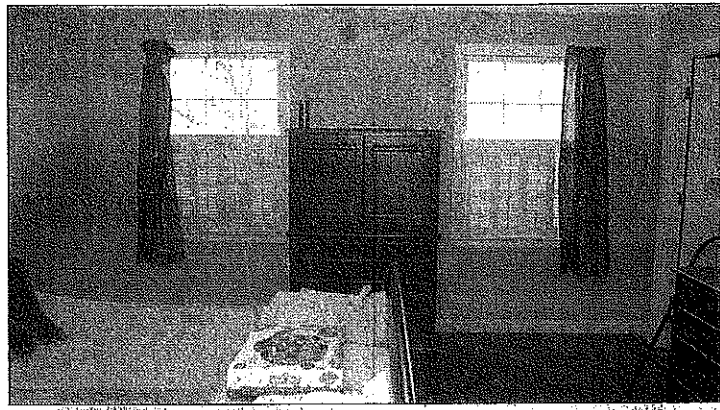
She added stems of silk tropical flowers to a terra cotta pot with artificial grass.

Wall hangings. She found a print of an old map of the world and burned the edges of it with a lighter. Because the old frame she found didn't have glass, she used Mod Podge to attach the map to the frame to give the look of an old oil painting. It hangs over the bed.

Some carved wooden plaques were painted to go with the cherry furniture and are hung on both sides of the bed.

The heating and air conditioning vent above the bed was removed and painted with the same faux finish as the walls. An architectural piece called an overdoor was put there to hide the vent and still let air through.

Floors. She bought two Berber-type carpet runners with vinyl



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIM KIM FOSTER-TOBIN/THE STATE

Before, above, and after: The designer painted the walls, recovered a bench and added plants and accessories.



backing at K-mart. To tie them to the room's colors, she used hot glue to attach green ribbon around the sides, tacking the corners with fishing line.

THE REACTION

The Fords had done some painting and other projects in their older home off Piney Grove Road. But Chris Ford said he knew his wife was frustrated with the look of their bedroom.

During their Christmas trip, Ford said he apologized to Suzanne because he didn't have a present for her under the tree in Montreal.

"I really played it up," he said. "I told her it was being delivered and she'd have to find it when we got home. So we got home and she walked around the house trying to find it."

Suzanne Ford went upstairs while her husband stayed on the first floor.

"Then all I heard was, 'Oh my God, oh my God' about three or four times," he said.

As for her reaction: "I thought it was just fabulous. I was speechless."

"I'm a big fan of those shows like 'While You Were Out' and 'Trading Spaces.' I'd been saying we need to trade with somebody and do a room."

She said she especially liked the colors Soward used and that the designer incorporated a lot of the couple's things from other parts of the house.

Weren't they nervous hiring someone to transform their bedroom without any input from them?

No, Chris Ford said. He runs Nationwide Floor and Window Covering and had worked with Soward before, so he was familiar with her work.

The result?

"To me it's an inviting bedroom now," Suzanne Ford said. "It's not just a room you go to sleep. It's somewhere I can relax and enjoy the end of my day with a nice glass of wine. Before, it was just a bedroom."