

# Globe

THE  
BOSTON

10.26.08

MAGAZINE

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THE REAL ESTATE ISSUE

## TRAPPED!

THE HARD REALITY  
OF STAYING PUT

BY DANIEL MCGINN

A CHEAPER WAY TO BUY  
A VACATION HOME

**ROOM MAKEOVERS**  
STAGING TO THE RESCUE

HOW TO SURVIVE A  
BUMPY RENTAL MARKET





**FOCAL POINT**  
Adding curtains can highlight a great feature in a room, such as glass doors. **Page 34**

## THE BOSTON GLOBE MAGAZINE 10.26.08

### EDITOR'S NOTE



Four years ago, we started a tradition of selecting a Bostonian of the Year; since then, we've chosen a baseball guru (Theo Epstein), a Big Dig whistle-blower (Judge Edward Ginsburg), a politician (Deval Patrick), and a housing activist (Bruce Marks). It's time to start thinking of our 2008 candi-

dates, and we want your input.

What a year! The housing and stock markets tumbled, the Celtics did what the Patriots could not and brought Boston sports fans yet another championship, a pint-size second baseman proved his rookie year was no fluke, a university president led reform in the vital area of sustainable living (Susan Hockfield at MIT), a bodybuilding firefighter with a sore back (ahem) and a middle-aged dad from Germany who called himself Rockefeller (ahem) made headlines, Ted Kennedy's health captured the nation's heart, and everybody, it seemed, was dusting off a bicycle or breaking out their walking shoes and hitting the streets to save a few bucks on gas.

That's just for starters.

What else will you remember about 2008 and who will define it? Send your suggestions to us at [magazine@globe.com](mailto:magazine@globe.com) and look for our Bostonians of the Year issue on December 21.

— Doug Most



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### + ONLINE

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#### PHOTO GALLERY

View the transformation of two rooms staged to sell.

#### MISS CONDUCT

Check her blog every day for her latest musings.

#### COLLEGE ISSUE

Learn why tuition is out of control in our October 5 issue.

#### GREENER ISSUE

Glass vs. plastic: The debate is on in our September 28 Issue.

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### Project No. 2

- One-bedroom, one-bath condo
- 184 I Street, Unit 2, South Boston
- Asking \$279,000
- Listed with Jane C. Hoffmann, Hammond Residential Real Estate, 617-587-4615 (open house today, 1 to 3 p.m.)

### Stager No. 2

- Maureen Reddy of DaVinci Designer Gallery, Winthrop, 617-539-0241, ddg-re.com

Maureen Reddy found an ugly print in a stunning frame at Christmas Tree Shops for \$9.99. So she spray-painted the print black and added an apple with oil paint. The height of the painting emphasizes the tall ceilings.

Simple curtains call attention to a great feature, the glass doors, and add a feminine touch to balance out the blacks.

To create a cohesive look between the living room and neighboring kitchen, Reddy used the beautiful black granite countertop as inspiration and added black accent pieces, like these secondhand leather cubes.

A neutral-colored rug and side chair (both purchased second-hand) minimize the colors and patterns in the room, making it more pleasing to the eye. The old chair had been damaged by the homeowner's cat.



### Reddy's Tips for Sellers

- Replace worn soft goods (throw pillows, area rugs, curtains, etc.) with inexpensive new items to make your rooms feel fresh.
- If you have pets, find cabinet or closet space where you can hide their food bowls, litter boxes, and toys during showings.
- Imagine the ideal buyer of your home (a single professional, a couple with young children, etc.) and then stage the rooms to suit that buyer.



Because they could distract would-be buyers, the TV, its cables, and the cat food underneath were replaced with a simple cabinet and another black accent piece.