



Before the redesign, the appeal of this Frederick porch was limited to its two iron chairs with yellow-and-white striped cushions.

# Outer Space

## Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Can Conquer Porch Problems with Easy, Affordable Solutions



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A LITTLE DESIGN INSPIRATION?** HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S RESTORE IN Downtown Frederick is a great place to explore and let your imagination wander.

Vintage is what's trending in the design world and ReStore is the place where you can find everything from furniture to unique decorations to building materials. With a little inspiration and some elbow grease, you can repurpose, recycle and revive donated items from the store to create that vintage look you've been after.

### A MAKEOVER WITH HEART

Our client has a classic brick home with a comfortable, wrap-around

columned porch that was in need of a makeover that could introduce some color and enhance its sophistication. And we knew just the place to go to fulfill the homeowner's vision for vintage charm—ReStore.

Beyond the great, affordable pieces we always find there, we love that the money spent at ReStore goes back into the Frederick community to help fund Habitat for Humanity's building projects.

### FROM DRAB TO FAB

Here's a closer look at the porch makeover, and where we applied our creative design ideas to transform inexpensive ReStore finds from drab to fab.

We address a porch design just like any other 'living space' design: Keep it simple using these three design elements:

**Color:** Define a color palette and use it throughout the space in furnishings, fabrics and accents.



Simple, affordable and easy-to-install elements brought splashes of color and created a functional space through creative uses of various building products. **Right:** Meredith Ericksen turns shutters into a privacy screen.

**Layout:** Create conversational groupings and pathways through the space.

**Details:** Introduce pattern and texture and consider architectural interest.

This porch design started with a color scheme. The client had a pair of iron chairs with yellow-and-white striped cushions that we used as anchor pieces in the space.

To introduce a pop of bright color, we developed a color scheme that included yellow, dark purple and deep green. We painted the client's white wicker furniture a deep green color to balance the yellow pieces. Then we added purple through accents of paint, fabrics and flowers.

With a floor plan, color scheme and design concept in hand, we spent a few hours exploring ReStore and soon had a cart full of inspiration for the porch design.

### OUR FAVORITE VINTAGE FINDS

- A transom window, which we envisioned as a welcome/address sign. Metal house numbers from ReStore, white wood letters to spell H-E-L-L-O and accent fabric pieces behind the glass panels were the finishing touches.

Cost: \$30.

- Six wood shutters were repurposed as a hanging privacy screen. We

grouped them together and hung them between the columns.

Cost: \$4 each, plus hardware for hanging.

- An old carpenter's box became a perfect vintage accessory: a handy magazine holder.

Cost: \$20.



**Above:** The finished product took a drab space and turned it into something that is as practical as it is attractive, and at a cost that won't bust a family's budget. **Right:** Meredith Ericksen with the eclectic collection of products she selected for installation.



**WITH A BIT OF WORK AND A CREATIVE DESIGN EYE, YOU, TOO, CAN ACHIEVE YOUR VERY OWN VINTAGE TRANSFORMATION.**

**OUR FAVORITE TRANSFORMATIONS**

- **A rope table.** We stumbled upon an old wood box filled with one-inch thick rope. Taking inspiration from the rope, we decided to wrap it around a salvaged octagonal wood table, adding purple paint to the top and bottom for a punch of color.

Cost: \$60.

- **Floor cloths.** We started with two rolls of vinyl flooring and turned them into floor cloths—painting them with colors and patterns that coordinated with the accent fabric. Then, we sealed the floor cloths for outside use.

Cost: \$5 per piece of vinyl, plus paint and stencil.

- **Candelabras.** ReStore has a plethora of shiny chandeliers with outdated brass finishes. With a little imagination, they can be



Details, details, details. **Above:** A transom window found new use as a welcome/address sign. **Above, right:** Mismatched light globes were turned into hanging planters. **Right:** Ferns brought the green hue of the outdoors right onto the porch.

repurposed. We took apart two chandeliers, spray painted them black, and wrapped the arms in rope. Ta da! Candelabras!

Cost: \$45.

- **Drapery panels.** Two canvas drop cloths make perfect panels to hang as window treatments on the porch and a simple stencil pattern adds detail and color.

Cost: \$10 per drop cloth, plus paint and stencil.

- **Hanging planters.** Three mismatched, glass light globes were repurposed into hanging planters and hung at different lengths between two porch columns.

Cost: \$15, plus macramé hangers and plants.

### GO AND WANDER AROUND

Drop by the Frederick ReStore and see what inspires you. With a bit of work and a creative design eye, you, too, can achieve your very own vintage transformation.

*Meredith Ericksen is the principal designer/owner of Tuscan Blue Design, an interior design studio located in historic Downtown Frederick. [www.tuscanbluedesign.com](http://www.tuscanbluedesign.com). Visit its blog, *Design Sense and Sensibility*, to see before-and-after photos of this project with do-it-yourself instructions. Also, special thanks to the following for*

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