

Opening Up Your Home

Not up for a huge remodel? Try smaller projects

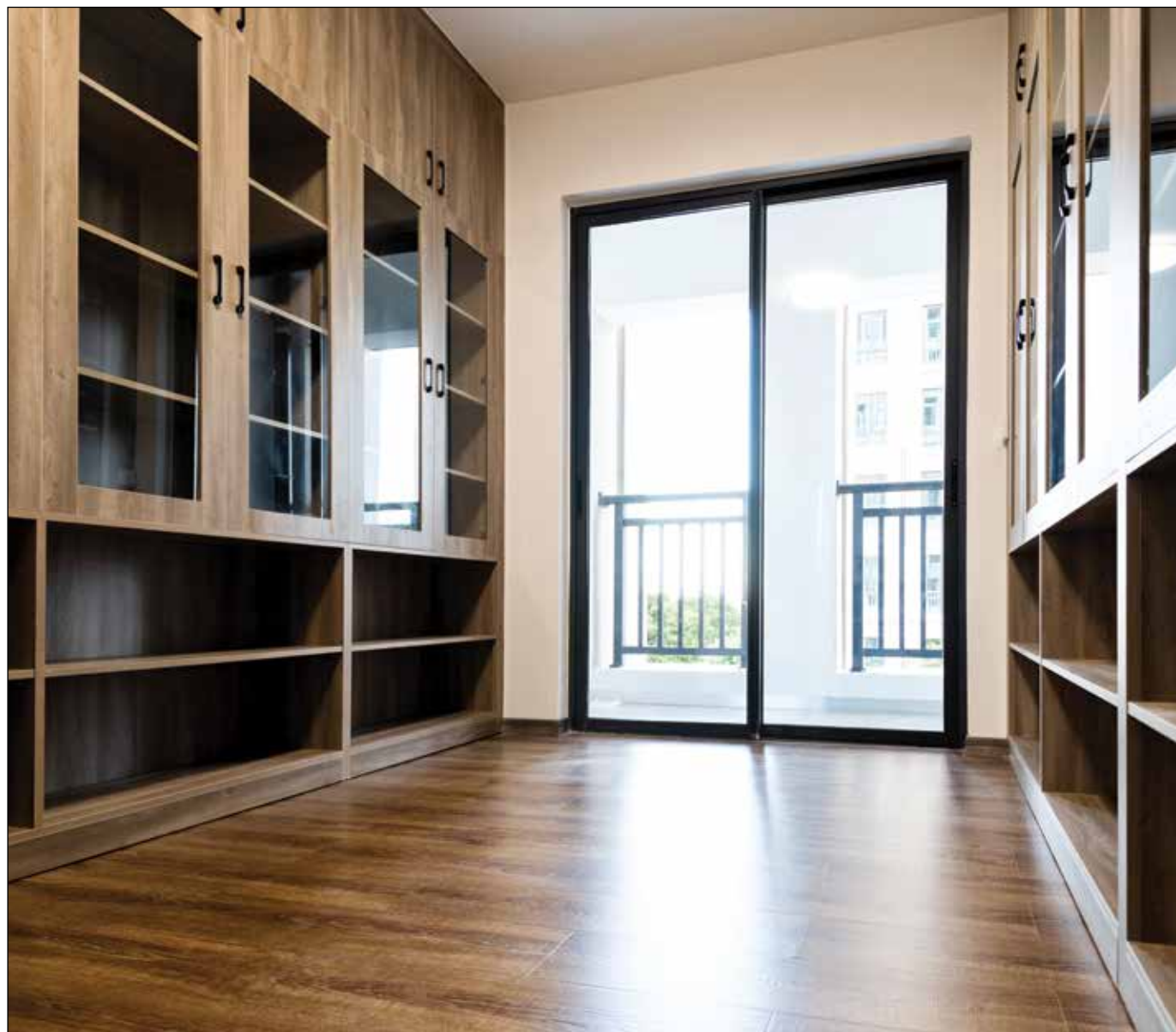
Higher interest rates might mean staying a bit longer in your current home, even if it's hampered by older styles or cramped living spaces. They might impact your willingness to take out a loan for a larger remodeling project, too.

Instead, try a few smaller projects that can update your home, while opening up a room.

MAXIMIZING SPACE

Consider updating furniture to provide more storage space. Couches, ottomans and benches can provide handy places to store remotes or video-game controllers, extra pillows and blankets, or other forms of clutter. You can find extra space in closets by adding another rod, or going all-in with a floor-to-ceiling shelving unit. Coffee tables with shelves can also serve as a display for favorite books or other treasured items. Ditch the huge TV cabinet and hang the set on the wall. It's a trendy look, but also one that instantly frees up more square footage in a room.

Most older homes lack the open floor plans that many



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REAL ESTATE 101

Finding the Right Contractor

You're placing a lot of trust — and a lot of money — in the hands of any contractor. That can lead to sleepless nights if you don't have complete confidence in the one you've chosen. Here's what to look for: bit.ly/3BW37zw.

crave these days. If you're handy enough to tackle week-

end DIY projects, consider creating a cozy office space,

corner seating area or breakfast nook. It can be as simple

as converting a shelving unit into a base, then hanging an upholstered headboard on the wall for a backrest. There'll be extra storage space below, and plenty of room to add accessories like a small desk or circular dining room table and chairs.

NEW IDEAS FOR EXTRA STORAGE AND ADDITIONS

Is there an unused area in your laundry room? Convert it into a mudroom, where coats, gloves, scarves, umbrellas, backpacks, shoes and boots can be stored away. You'll need enough room to add open shelves, wall hangers and create seating. The new shelving can also provide an opportunity to organize your cleaning supplies.

Hanging on to unused items in the garage? Install overhead racks for luggage, rec equipment, decorations and lawn tools. Haul the rest into the attic, sell it or give it away, then let your imagination run wild in the new space that remains.

Thinking of a home gym or yoga studio? Need extra office or work space? A place to gather and watch the big game? Additional gathering area for guests? This once overstuffed corner could be any of those things — or even some cool combination.



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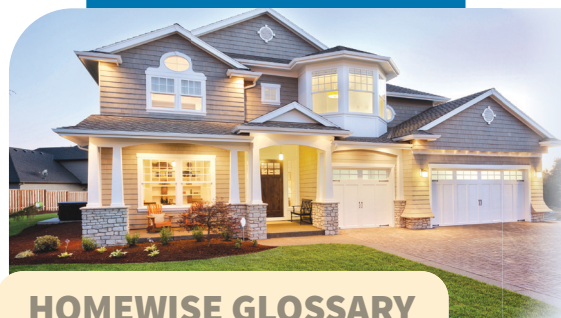
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HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Bankruptcy: A condition whereby the courts determine that a person's indebtedness greatly exceeds their assets and payment of these debts is determined by the courts.

SOURCE: MLS.com

AD SPACE