

# Magnificent Mantel Makeovers!

# indesign

Before

The skills of a good designer are invaluable in developing a truly unique and custom look for your home. It goes well beyond furniture and window treatments. A talented designer is able to look at the total picture and make recommendations to compliment all of the elements within your home.

**by kass wilson**  
owner of Wallstreet

Over the years, I have worked with many gifted and talented designers in the area through my company, Wallstreet, a faux finishing and design studio based in

Alpharetta. here are some tips to consider when making your mantel the most intriguing feature in any room.

**Creating warmth in an open space.** A common design dilemma is how to incorporate warmth in an open space, such as a great room or living room. the misconception is since walls are the largest surface in a room they should be visually softened. Many times, however, the problem remains because now you shifted the focus to the remaining focal point of the room - the white mantel. it remains visually harsh and uninviting.

**Consider your mantel as art.** In many cases, the mantel is the center of the room. It is one of the most prominent architectural details, and should be treated as a special piece of art. With careful planning, attention to detail and use of advanced finishing techniques, it can enhance the visual value of your home.

**Frame your mantel like artwork.** Imagine your firebox as a portrait, or other artwork, you wish to frame. Sometimes, all that is needed is a simple one-step frame. But sometimes multiple textures - similar to additional layers of mats in a frame - can bring out the details of the mantle. The colors,

style, dimension and placement of each layer are carefully selected to compliment all of the elements within the space/

**Cost considerations.** The cost for a mantel makeover is dependent upon many factors: 1) the current condition of your mantel, 2) the preparation required, 3) the size of your mantel, and 4) the intricacy of

the finishes that will be applied. the prices can range anywhere from \$400 - \$4,000. Think of it as a piece of custom art being placed prominently in your home. Enlisting the guidance of a designer in the planning stages is the best way to insure the maximum benefit from your investment.



After



Kass Wilson has worked as a finish artisan for over 12 years. Examples of her innovative work can be seen at [www.kasswilson.com](http://www.kasswilson.com)

**Design credits for mantel project shown above:**  
**Kandrac & Kole Interior Designs, Inc.,**  
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