

# Nest Building

MAKE THE GLOVE FIT

by KATE BRIDGER

January 27, 2010

We all know what it feels like to slip a hand into a glove only to find extra floppy spaces at the end of the fingertips—it's uncomfortable. Houses are the same. To live fully, we need to fill the far corners of our homes and not leave unused 'dead' space.

Underused spaces develop for a number of reasons: sometimes, we simply haven't bothered to decorate a room, make it comfortable, or assign a purpose to it.

In other instances, rooms that once fulfilled specific purposes are no longer required. For example, children grow up and leave home, or perhaps you've closed down the business you once ran from home. These once active spaces now lack energy and no longer contribute to the whole. They leave gaps in your life and your home and should be reclaimed and brought back into service.

Some inactive spaces become shrines to 'just-in-case' usage. For example, perfectly appointed, neat and tidy guest rooms that are used only three weeks out of 52, or formal dining rooms ignored most of the time but preserved 'just in case' the extended family shows up for dinner at holidays.

For most of the year, everyone tiptoes past the closed guestroom door and the empty dining room to congregate in the kitchen or family room where all needs and purposes appear to be adequately addressed.

Returning to the glove analogy, it's rather like living in the palm of one's hand and ignoring the far reaches and potential of extended fingertips.

It's important to stretch out and fill the dark chilly corners. Bring light, colour, comfort and energy to these spaces. Reconfigure them if their original purposes have changed, or give them multiple uses so that you are still prepared 'just in case' Aunt Polly shows up for a weekend.