

If You Can't Fix It – Feature It!

This became the mantra in our household when we purchased a house that was constructed in 1790. Boy, did it have character and charm. And I might add, we also heated the outside on many cold nights. But the nooks and crannies, built-in bookcases and walk-in fireplaces made up for the less than adequate heating and electrical system.

Over one of the large fireplaces with the original beehive oven that I adored, was a 12 inch by 24 inch indent in the wall. I spent many hours trying to decide what to do with the space. Out of the blue, my husband said,

"If you can't fix it, feature it."

What a brilliant idea! Why didn't I think of that? I then discovered that I had an antique clock that had belonged to a great grandparent that just happened to fit *exactly* in the space. Voila! The look couldn't have been more perfect.



8 years ago we left the 1790 house and built a new house. The overly eager excavators decided that I needed a fire pit. They moved large rocks to an area in the back yard creating what I considered an eyesore. When I saw what they had done, I didn't have the heart to tell them that it wasn't what I considered a fire pit and moving all of the rocks would have taken a lot of effort. They were so proud of their accomplishments. Luckily, I already had my

mantra from the last house. After much thought, I decided that they had created the most wonderful location for a water element. My husband and I dug out a place for a small pond, added a waterfall, planted some flowers and this is now one of my favorite *features* on our property. It is a serene, inspirational place for me to meditate, read or simply enjoy the day. The cats also get great enjoyment sunning on a rock and watching for chipmunks!

This mantra, *if you can't fix it, feature it*, can be applied to many situations that have nothing to do with decorating, building or material things. For example, Emme, best known as one of the first plus-size super models, has **featured** her wonderful attributes rather than try to fix what the modeling world might consider inadequate. Thanks to her advocacy, many women have been able to embrace their bodies and their shapes. Emme now adds author, television personality, designer and celebrity to her many accomplishments due to her bravery to feature rather than fix herself.

Dr. Steve Maraboli, a motivational speaker, author and Behavioral Science Academic has an inspirational quote:

"There is nothing more rare, more beautiful, than a woman being unapologetically herself; comfortable in her perfect imperfection. To me, that is the true essence of beauty."

Amy Purdy, who became a double amputee at the age of 19 is one of the celebrities on *Dancing with the Stars 2014*. As a result of Meningitis, she could not *fix* the situation she found herself in and she sure has *featured* it. She is an accomplished athlete and snowboarder who has won numerous World Cups and recently won a Bronze Medal at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

All of the above examples relate to shifting your perspective. Nothing in the outside world changes but your way of approaching life, thinking about it and participating in it shifts. When you go from a negative thought of, "I have to fix this because it's not right" to "why don't I just feature it" your world of possibilities opens up.

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

- Abraham Lincoln