

Melrosian hopes her 'ugly living room' wins makeover

MELROSE - It takes a brave woman to admit nationally that she has the "ugliest" living room.

Adele Dean, who lives on Aaron Street, is a finalist in the "CSN Stores [Living Room Search and Rescue](#)" contest, having decided, in her opinion, that she has "the ugliest living room" in the country - and therefore deserves a \$5,000+ makeover.

"My living room is very ugly and hasn't been updated in 25 years," Dean told the *Free Press*. "It could really use a lift."

To wit, she entered the contest at CSN Stores at [csn.com](#), a Boston-based online company that sells "home improvement and home décor" items, in addition to luggage, school and office products, and items for babies, pets and more.

The company's contest promotion, in which it sought submissions of "ugly living rooms" through Oct. 20, reads as follows: "When the living room is no longer appealing, the entire mood and outlook of the household can languish. From what we've heard, living rooms across the country have suffered from neglect during the recession. We want to do our part to assess the current state of living rooms, give them the attention they deserve and help to rescue them."

The grand prize will be a makeover designed by [Angelo Surmelis](#), an [HGTV](#) [Home and Garden Television] personality, Dean said

Dean said she's lived in Melrose over 30 years and long has wanted to change the brick arches framing her fireplace but hasn't known how. She's also wanted to paint over or remove the two vents located above and to the side of the fireplace in her living room, but hasn't dared to touch them since "... maybe they can't be moved or covered up, as a safety issue."

According to the CSN Web site, the contest's grand-prize winner will receive a "... \$5,000+ Living Room Rescue Package," which includes new furniture, lighting, rugs and more. Other prizes include a second prize, with items valued at \$1,000+ and a third prize, valued at \$200, and includes a "large and stunning, bottle green Kartell Boheme vase from AllModern.com."

Winners will be determined by the voting public via a Facebook account established for the contest - [Facebook.com/csnstores](#) - and Dean hopes *Free Press* readers will cast votes in her favor. Hopefully, she'll soon be able to vote for herself, but first she has to open, and learn how to navigate, a Facebook account. As do most of her friends, she added.

As this report went to press, of the 45 "ugly living rooms" pictured on the site - with photos submitted by applicants - Dean's living room appeared on the last page. Mousing over the photo reveals its title, "Adeline from Massachusetts." All photos on the site are named similarly for privacy purposes, Dean said.

"People with the most comments will automatically be slotted to the top five," she said of the voting process.

Asked how she learned of the "ugly living room contest," Dean said, "I am a past customer and on their e-mail list, so that's how I found out."



Courtesy Photo

Melrose resident Adele Dean stands in her self-described 'ugly living room' in this photo she submitted to the 'CSN Stores Living Room Search and Rescue' contest. CSN Stores is offering a makeover for the 'ugliest living rooms' in the country. In the photo, Dean said her pose, with her hands on either side of her head, is meant to resemble the statue of 'The Scream,' an iconic image created by artist Edvard Munch in 1893 that sits behind Dean on the mantle.