

GOOD
HOUSEKEEPING

YOUR HOME



*your top
design questions,*
ANSWERED!

We asked our favorite experts
for their advice, tips and tricks
to make over any space

Text by SARAH JEAN SHELTON

Q

**How can I make
my kitchen look
modern, but not
overly trendy?**



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JUSTINA BLAKENEY
DESIGNER, ARTIST
AND AUTHOR OF
THE NEW BOHEMIANS
HANDBOOK

A: STRIKE A BALANCE.
Stick with simple cabinets
and countertops, but have
fun with your backsplash.
Because it's at eye level,
this tile can really set the
tone. Try a classic subway
style in a fresh finish or
color (hello, emerald!).

FOR SIMILAR | LANCASTER OPEN
SEAS 3" BY 12" POLISHED CERAMIC
TILE, \$10 PER SQUARE FOOT,
TILEBAR.COM. RECLAIMED WOOD
FLOATING SHELF, FROM \$79,
WESTELM.COM. DELTA TRINSC
KITCHEN FAUCET IN CHAMPAGNE
BRONZE, \$292, HOMEDPOT.COM.
HAWES MINI HEIRLOOM WATERING
CAN, \$16. SHOPTERRAIN.COM.

Q How can I arrange my living room to provide plenty of seating but still have room to walk around in?



KATIE ROSENFELD
INTERIOR DESIGNER

A: CREATE GOOD FLOW. It's not as much about where you put your furniture as it is about the types of pieces you choose. In each room I design, I try to include at least one round piece, such as a coffee table, that people can walk around without bumping their knees. I also add a few armchairs and a versatile piece like a garden stool that can be used as a stool to sit on or as a table for a drink.

FOR SIMILAR | BARRETT GLASS GLOBE CHANDELIER, \$499, POTTERY-BARN.COM. CARVILLE ARM CHAIR, \$300, JOSSANDMAIN.COM. ERA ROUND GLASS COFFEE TABLE, \$499, CRATEANDBARREL.COM. MONACO THROW, \$348, SERENAANDLILY.COM.

JUST ADD...



SLEEK SEAT
GREER SKIRTED SLIPPER CHAIR, \$455, ONEKINGSLANE.COM



MULTIUSE STOOL
ACCENT PLUS BLUE AND WHITE CERAMIC DECORATIVE STOOL, \$64, HOZZ.COM



CIRCULAR TABLE
VALERIANE COFFEE TABLE WITH TRAY TOP, \$388, WAYFAIR.COM

Living room: Michael J. Lee, Katie Rosenfeld; Kristina Young.



KATE ARENDS
FOUNDER, LIFESTYLE BLOG WIT & DELIGHT

Q Can I fix up my bathroom without a complete gut job?

A: TINY TWEAKS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. You don't have to demolish tile or install a pricey new vanity to like your bathroom again. Have an afternoon to spare? Hang up peel-and-stick wallpaper or a great mirror; you can even try swapping in stylish brass drawer pulls. If you have a whole Saturday, a coat or two of paint can make even the most dated cabinets look chic. Choose a dark color (like forest green, navy or black) in a high-gloss or matte finish. You might just find yourself leaving the door open the next time company comes over.

FOR SIMILAR | WHITE ANEMONES BY PATTY SLONIGER WALLPAPER, FROM \$60 PER ROLL, SPOONFLOWER.COM. INFINITY 36" ROUND WALL MIRROR, \$229, CB2.COM. EMILY & MERITT LEATHER SCONCE, \$199, POTTERYBARN.COM. DELTA PIVOTAL BATHROOM FAUCET IN MATTE BLACK, \$380, HOMEDEPOT.COM.

JUST ADD...



FUSS-FREE WALLPAPER
BOTANY IN ROSE/BLUSH BY CHASING PAPER X KELLY VENTURA WALLPAPER, \$40 PER ROLL, CHASINGPAPER.COM



SHINY PULLS
LEW'S HARDWARE BRUSHED-BRASS CABINET KNOB, \$6.21, LOWES.COM



MODERN MIRROR
SOHO MIRROR, \$179, BALLARDDDESIGNS.COM



MARK D. SIKES
INTERIOR DESIGNER

Q

I've found accent pieces for my living room, but I struggle with putting them together. What's the secret?

A: IT'S ALL ABOUT VIGNETTES. Focusing on specific areas within the room can make decorating more manageable. When grouping items, vary shapes, sizes and colors: On a coffee table, try a low arrangement, like a metallic bowl or object on top of a few similarly colored books; on a mantel or console table, add height by leaning artwork against the wall behind it, then position smaller vases or boxes in front.

FOR SIMILAR | SIDE BY SIDE BY SATSUKI SHIBUYA ART PRINT, FROM \$27, ARTFULLYWALLS.COM. SHIBORI SOUP BOWL, \$17, LULUANDGEORGIA.COM. THRESHOLD STONE TOPPED WOOD BOX WITH AGATE KNOB, \$25, TARGET.COM.





Q

I need decor inspiration for my dining room. Help!



RACHAEL BLIEFNICK

FOUNDER, DESIGN BLOG THIS IS OUR BLISS

A: THINK BEYOND THE TABLE AND CHAIRS.

It may seem as if nothing is more important — they're essential to entertaining, after all — but that shouldn't prevent you from showing the rest of this space some love. My advice? Do something unexpected. Give your ceiling an interesting paint treatment, or put punchy pillows on your dining chairs and then layer a bold rug over your existing one. I swear by a statement light too: Hang one over the table to (literally) highlight all the special occasions that take place here, and your family and friends will love spending time at your table.

FOR SIMILAR | VELVET NAVY CURTAIN PANEL 48" BY 96", \$109, CB2.COM. ARMEN LIVING PHOEBE MID-CENTURY DINING CHAIR, \$145, HOMEDEPOT.COM. RIZZY HOME COTTON CHEVRON STRIPE THROW PILLOW IN GOLD, \$18, TARGET.COM. SURYA WATERCOLOR WAT-5005 RUG, FROM \$382 FOR 2' BY 3', RUGS-DIRECT.COM.



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NICOLE CURTIS

HOST, HGTV'S REHAB ADDICT



What's the easiest way to hang a gallery wall?

A: Remember this failproof plan.

It just takes a little time (and patience!) to mark where you want everything placed, but once you nail that, the rest is cake.



1. Gather the art and photos you plan on putting up and play around with the grouping on the floor until you find the best arrangement, then snap a photo with your smartphone.



2. Trace each frame onto a piece of paper and cut out. (Tip: Try a roll of kraft paper for anything larger than 8" by 10".)



3. Refer to your photo to temporarily adhere the paper cutouts to the wall using a level and painter's tape.



4. Measure the distance between the top of the actual frame and where the center of the nail needs to go, then mark this distance on each of the hanging paper cutouts.



5. Grab your hammer and nail right through the paper cutouts into the wall, on your marks. Rip away the paper, hang up your frames, then step back and take in your masterpiece.

Dining room: This Is Our Bliss; Bliefnick: Robin Joy; Curtis: A.J. Mueller.

HINKLEY FLETCHER
13½" AGED ZINC
PENDANT LIGHT, \$309,
LAMPSPLUS.COM



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MICHAEL MURPHY
INTERIOR DESIGN
AND TRENDS PRODUCER
AT LAMPS PLUS

Q

What should I consider before buying a new light fixture?

A: KNOW WHAT YOU NEED.

Shopping for a kitchen pendant light is very different from shopping for a bedroom fixture. The size of the room will dictate the size of the light—a really big light would look off in a small room. And don't overlook the type of bulb. Remember that lumens equal brightness, so the more lumens, the brighter the light. In general, most spaces require between 10 and 20 lumens per square foot, but bedside lamps can have 800-lumen bulbs and a kitchen needs about 5,000 lumens, as it's a task-oriented space.



Q

I like my neutral bedroom, but it lacks personality. Are there ways to make it more interesting—without adding color?



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SARAH SHERMAN SAMUEL
INTERIOR
DESIGNER

A: THE TRICK IS TO BRING IN TEXTURE.

You can layer in decor pieces in a variety of fabrics and materials from the floor up to the walls to give any space dimension. I love working in materials like wood, leather, wool and sheepskin because of their natural textures. Then I use a couple of small-scale patterned textiles to create focal points around the room. Up the coziness factor instantly with lots of soft goods.

FOR SIMILAR | POSSINI EURO VIVALDI WARM BRASS WALL SCONE, \$130, LAMPSPLUS.COM. NATALIA NIGHTSTAND, \$201, JOSSANDMAIN.COM. EDYTHE ZIGZAG PILLOW IN BLUE, FROM \$55, THEPILLOWCOLLECTION.COM. SHEEPSKIN RUG, 2' BY 3', IVORY, \$99, POTTERYBARN.COM.

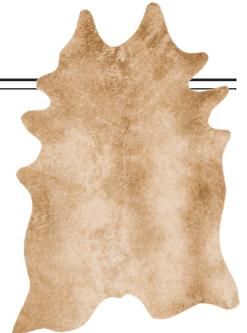
JUST ADD...



PRETTY POM-POMS
SEAPORT
THROW, \$113,
BIRCHLANE.COM



WOVEN WALL DECOR
LARGE YERBAMALA
DESIGNS WALL HANGING, \$180,
WESTELM.COM



HAUTE HIDE
FREYA FAUX HIDE
RUG, \$200,
ALLMODERN.COM

Bedroom: Max Wanger, Samuel, Nicki Sebastian.



Q

What are some easy ways I can put a unique personal spin on my space?



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ASHLEY ROSE

FOUNDER, DIY BLOG
SUGAR & CLOTH

A: TRY A DIY! There's nothing more personal than making something yourself. Picking a project or two to mix in with store-bought decor is not only a great way to customize your home but it's also a budget-friendly approach to refreshing rooms for changing trends and seasons. Take throw pillows: If you're looking to save or you can't quite find the one you want, try this no-sew envelope pillow by François et Moi for *Sugar & Cloth*—it's achievable at any skill level.

FOR SIMILAR | IVORY ROUND TRELIS MIRROR, \$249, POTTERYBARN.COM. MANTIS ADJUSTABLE BRASS TRIPOD FLOOR LAMP, \$318, LAMPSPLUS.COM. COAST TO COAST DINING BENCH, \$709, HOUZZ.COM. STOCKINGS HAND-TUFTED BLACK/WHITE AREA RUG, \$135, ALLMODERN.COM.

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DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECTS



Easy

1. NAUTICAL VASE
Hot-glue jute rope around a straight-sided vessel.



Pretty easy

2. STAR MIRROR
Visit goodhousekeeping.com/diy/mirror for the string art how-to.



Really easy

3. FUN FRINGE
Create extra-large tassels or pom-poms from thick yarn and knot onto ends of a throw.

Entryway and headshot: Jared Smith for Sugar & Cloth. Vase: Mike Garten. Mirror: Alison Gootee/Studio D. Blanket: Erika LaPresto/Studio D.