

**DRESS WELL, SPEND LESS!**

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**LIPSTICK LIKE A PRO**

**How to Pick, Apply & Match Your Perfect Shade**

**Wake Up Your WEEKEND LOOK**

PAGE 213

**GIVE YOUR HOME A STYLE MAKEOVER**

**10 Easy Ways to WOW!**

*Taylor!*

**HER MOST CANDID INTERVIEW YET**



**10 WAYS TO**

## Style Your Home Like a Pro

It's that time of year when you take one look around the house and think, Is there anything I can do (besides straightening up) to make it look better before inviting guests over? So we asked top designers to give us their secrets for taking a room from ho-hum to oh, yes. These 10 mini makeovers work miracles without a lot of expense or effort

BY EMILY HSIEH



### 1 Dress Up a Table

Refresh an old favorite or give an inexpensive one a grand look with fabric, says Gideon Mendelson of New York design firm Mendelson Group. "A draped table appears so inviting, and you just have to change the material to mix it up." For a formal touch, let the edges pool; for a tailored, clean vibe, cut and hem it so it skims the floor. Mendelson loves the aesthetic of burlap cloth, particularly on a table centered in a foyer or vestibule. "It looks chic, soft, and earthy." Find affordable options in rounds from 24" to 108" at ballarddesigns.com.

390 InStyle / NOVEMBER 2013

### Turn Your Kitchen into a Showplace

Domed-glass cake stands look elegant, especially when used in multiples. Designer Windsor Smith likes to display greens, "stems from our lemon trees," or fresh fruit, as she did in her sunny L.A. kitchen. While she's had the ones below for many years, she's also a fan of Pottery Barn's mini glass pedestal and dome (\$14) or the Claro cake stand (\$59) and dome (\$39).



### 3 Add a Monogram

Make fluffy white towels more luxurious with your initials. New York decorator Amanda Nisbet favors Matouk linens ("the quality is excellent, and they last a long time") punctuated with an oversize initial in a poppy hue. Or give a three-letter monogram a modern twist by using a combination of colors.



Terrycloth hand towel, Monogram Shop, \$45 with monogram, themonogramshops.com. Egyptian-cotton Misago hand towel, Matouk, \$30, matouk.com.



### 4 Wallpaper the Ceiling

Craving a jolt of color and pattern? Set your sights overhead as Birmingham, Ala., decorator Lisa Flake demonstrates in this peacock blue home office. "Papering the ceiling gives you a lot of wow factor," she says. Bold florals look particularly dramatic. Monochromatic walls in deep tones (like charcoal gray or the teal shown here) keep things from appearing froufrou and also allow the paper to stand out.

### 5 Bring the Outdoors In

"There's something so romantic about an olive tree indoors," says L.A. designer Chris Barrett. "The leaves have a feather-like quality that softens a space." Select one that's tall enough to graze your ceiling (Arbequina olive tree, from \$110; fast-growing-trees.com). Ground it by placing it in an oversize sea-grass basket, and keep it in direct sunlight. Water when the soil becomes dry.



If the basket is too tall for your tree, give the pot a boost with old books. Seagrass basket, Soravia and Libby, \$60; soraviaandlibby.com.



### 6 Master the Stack-of-Books Trick

In almost every story in a decorating magazine, you'll spot piles of books crowned with an object or two. Designers love this look, which not only brings personality to a room but can also be used to break up the library-neat rows on a bookshelf or create a stylish vignette on a coffee table. To do it right, New York's Alexander Doherty says to gather similar-size volumes in a favorite palette (i.e., not your dog-eared paperbacks) and top them with a large seashell or a patterned bowl. "You don't want tons of tchotchkes that clutter," he says. "Pare down your choices to one or two items that have meaning for you."

Faux coral, Z Gallerie, \$25; zgallerie.com. Strombos pugilis silvered shell, Creel and Gow, \$90; creelandgow.com.

### LIFE etc. 10 WAYS

Silver mirrored tray, Williams-Sonoma, \$225; williams-sonoma.com. Harmony Ultimate Remote, Logitech, \$350; bestbuy.com.



### 7 Think Inside the Box

To rein in clutter on a coffee table, keep the remotes on a tray, says Amanda Nisbet. "I always have one on top of an ottoman, it helps give a sense of order to random bits and pieces," says the designer. A shiny silver style will lend a polished look. In a more casual setting, go for lacquer or rattan. "Whenever you opt for, for lacquer it shouldn't be 'too fussy.'" Keep the tray generously sized (she prefers a 15" x 19" rectangle) to hold all your channel-surfing essentials as well as magazines and books.



Lacquer tray, Jonathan Adler, \$120; jonathandj.com.

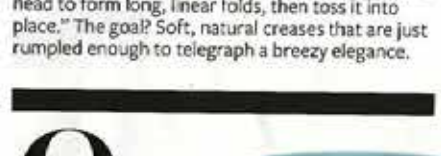


Rattan tray, Cost Plus, \$20; worldmarket.com.



### 8 Toss a Throw Just So

Ever wonder how decorators make a blanket look unstudied yet pulled together at the end of a bed or on the arm of a sofa or chair? "There is an art to it," affirms Atlanta designer Beth Webb. "Pick up the blanket in the center, hold it high above your head to form long, linear folds, then toss it into place." The goal? Soft, natural creases that are just rumpled enough to telegraph a breezy elegance.



### 9 Customize a Lamp Shade

"I buy ribbon or trim from M&J [mjrtrim.com] and affix it to the edges using a glue gun or Elmer's," says N.Y.C. pro Christina Murphy, who matches the trim to a color in the room. Another chic update? Paint the entire shade with fabric dye (Procion MX fabric dye, \$4; dickblick.com). Test a spot on the inside before brushing dye onto the outside surface.



Turquoise Ovo table lamp, Lamps Plus, \$100; lampsplus.com.



### 10 Display Your Art in a Graphic Arrangement

Grouping similar prints creates a compelling mass, and it's even more striking when the gallery spans an entire wall, just skimming the baseboards. "These pieces come together almost as a single piece of artwork, which is what makes it interesting," says New York designer Michael Formica, who suggests laying the works on the floor first to get the positioning right. "Though galleries typically hang pieces 3 inches apart, I tend to like artwork pushed closer together," he says. Find cool yet affordable prints at littlepaperplanes.com.



392 InStyle / NOVEMBER 2013