

20 *ways to get* DESIGNER LOOKS *FOR LESS*

No scheme needs to cost the earth. Here, leading designers share their tips about being savvy while decorating

Details, details

'Decorating walls with a stencil is a cheap but effective way to create a beautiful backdrop,' say Katie Glaister and Henry Miller-Robinson. 'To unite the colour palette, use a well-priced, plain linen for the curtains, but then add a pom-pom fringe as an extra detail in the same colours as the stencils.'
kandhdesign.co.uk

A child's
bedroom
by K&H
Design

2 Head for the border

'For the sitting room or where you have an expansive window,' says Lucy Barlow, 'maximise your budget without compromising on style by bordering a less expensive, good-quality linen curtain with a more expensive, elaborately patterned fabric.' barlowandbarlow.com



Living room scheme by Barlow & Barlow

4 Buy what you love

'If you find a fabric that you love but can't afford it, don't go for a cheaper alternative,' says Nina Campbell. 'Cover large pieces in a plain colour, and use the fabric you love on a chair or a cushion. Having a sofa made up is expensive, and if the fabric is second best to you, you'll only regret it.' ninacampbellinteriors.com

5 Ring the changes

'When wanting to refresh a room without spending too much, remember even the smallest changes can have an impact,' says Tricia Guild. 'Follow the seasons: layer rugs in winter, and in summer, hang crisp linen at the windows.' designersguild.com

6 Search out vintage

'The Edition 94 in South Kensington, London, is a treasure trove of vintage furniture,' reveals Beata Heuman. 'The founder, India Whalley, has a great eye for one-off designs. I love the vintage side tables she finds and then hand-lacquers in bold colours.' beataheuman.com



7 An eye for the high street

'To make the budget stretch further,' says Sophie Coller, 'we look to the high street for hidden gems and keep an eye out for interesting collaborations. A recent find was Sebastian Cox's bedside table for Made.' kitesgrove.com >>

3 Colour pop

'A bold colour choice can really elevate a design scheme, especially in a small bedroom,' reveals Tiffany Duggan. 'Focus it on one area – a headboard or a bed cover – to pack a statement style punch.' studioduggan.com





8 Hide away

'In an open-plan kitchen living room, try to hide as many utilities as possible,' says Martin Brudnizki. 'I have a wall of built-in cupboards, which I've covered with framed botanical prints to add a sweet focal point to a small kitchen space.' mbds.com



11 Plant up

'Use plants wherever you can,' advises Katie Cox. 'Collect unusual planters – zinc buckets are great for an inexpensive rustic touch, but you can use just about anything to add a touch of greenery to any space in your home.' haminteriors.com

12 Plan storage

'Being creative with storage allows the room to feel larger and brighter, but also allows all the intended finishes in the room to come to life and have their own identity,' suggests Philippa Thorp. thorp.co.uk

9 Drape a cloth

'We adore a cloth-covered table,' says Nicole Salvesen, 'and it's a really useful piece when you need to squirrel away things beneath the cover. It's possible to do both a traditional and contemporary treatment of these, too, so they work in any number of room styles and uses.' salvesengraham.com

10 Hunt down a bargain

'For projects with tighter budgets,' says Rebecca Leivars, 'I recommend John Pye Auctions. They have contracts to sell unsold or slightly damaged stock from high street retailers. It's online and you can pick up a sofa or a full bathroom suite for a fraction of its original price.' leivars.com

13 Seek out fabric

'Creating beautiful schemes needn't be prohibitive if you plan carefully,' says Georgina Cave. 'For affordable fabric, try Warris Gianni & Co, Golborne Road, London, or The Cloth Shop, Portobello Road, London.' caveinteriors.com



14 Invest in protective fabrics

'If you have animals and children, don't use expensive fabrics,' advises Emma Deterding. 'Go for one with in-built protection, such as Andrew Martin's Houdini Velvet, £28 per metre.' kellinadesigns.com

17 Accessorise

'To avoid spending a huge amount on decorating, dress a bedroom with plain fabrics and focus on accessories,' advises Penny Morrison. pennymorrison.com

18 Have a change

'My tip is to reimagine pieces you already own,' advises Nicola Harding. 'This will conserve the budget for special pieces. A tired piece of furniture can be transformed when placed differently or used in a different way.' nicolaharding.com

19 Resurface

'Aged brass is big news at the moment, and it's easy to update the surface appearance rather than buying new,' says Roselind Wilson. roselindwilsondesign.com



Vintage pieces upscaled by Kata of Studio27 for Caz Myers

15 Upscale

'We often source and collaborate with Studio27, One Brick Lane and The Restoration,' reveals Caz Myers. 'All three companies specialise in upscaling mid-century pieces to add warmth, colour and individuality, while still respecting the original design and being mindful of budget.' cazmyers.com

16 Widen the net

'Investigate buying internationally as well as from the UK market,' shares Irene Gunter. 'Try looking in the US for furniture; the Netherlands for amazing tapware; and Germany for appliances.' gunterandco.com

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Unlined blinds in the bathroom of Emily Todhunter's home

20 Get clever with treatments

'You can be canny in the way you treat your windows,' advises Emily Todhunter. 'It's not necessary to have expensive blinds – sometimes a simple, unlined blind can be very effective.' todhunterearle.com