

# House Beautiful


## Designer Secrets

**101 TIPS**  
FROM THE EXPERTS

COLOR LIGHTING  
HANGING ART  
RUGS CURTAINS  
MEASUREMENTS

DON'T MISS  
THIS VIEW! →

PLUS A ONE-DAY  
**MAKEOVER**  
with  
Nate Berkus

Psst!!!   
scan the cover

**76** **SURPRISE THE EYE WITH SCALE. USE ONE LARGE LAMP WITH A LARGE LAMPSHADE, OR AN OVERSIZE OTTOMAN. ONE LARGE-SCALE ELEMENT TAKES A ROOM UP A NOTCH.**

MYRA HOEFER

**84** A dining room rug should extend a minimum of 3' from the edge of a dining table—dining chairs should always be fully on the rug—not two legs on and two off.

GINGER BREWTON

**77** **I keep my sofas at 6'6" to 7'. Any smaller and they look dwarfed, bigger and they look like an airport lounge.**

ALEX PAPACHRISTIDIS

**85** Use recessed lighting sparingly. Too many fixtures turn your ceiling into Swiss cheese!

ANTHONY BARATTA

**78** I have a lot of dogs, so I take the same fabric that's on the sofa and make a blanket that covers almost its entire length. This way my dogs can lounge on the sofa, and I just take it off when I have guests.

CAROLYNE ROEHM

**79** Don't install carpet wall-to-wall in a narrow hall or on a narrow staircase. Instead, install the carpet as a runner and leave at least a 3" border on both sides to make the space seem wider.

ELISSA CULLMAN

**80** **RUGS: THE BIGGER THE BETTER. NOTHING SHRINKS A ROOM FASTER THAN A TINY 'POSTAGE STAMP' AT THE SEATING AREA. BEST RULE OF THUMB: KEEP 12" OF WOOD SHOWING AROUND THE PERIMETER.**

MARY FOLEY AND MICHAEL COX

**81** **A SIMPLE SISAL RUG IN 'NATURAL OR GRAY IS THE BEST WAY TO MAKE A ROOM LOOK CLEAN AND ELEGANT.**

JAMES HUNFORD

**86** Mood is everything, and who wants to dine in bright light? 60 watts for the dining room. I want it bright when reading, so 75 to 100 watts for the living room. It's nice to have options—if you don't have dimmers, then have some variety from 40 to 100 watts, so you can change the mood for the occasion. The bathroom needs overhead as well as side lighting. Keep the overhead to 75 watts, with 60 watts on each side. The best lighting is at eye level, not overhead, which creates shadows. And the best light is diffused light from a white or off-white lampshade.

BARBARA BARRY

**87** Small abstract sculpture is an instant way to modernize a traditional room. It could make J.P. Morgan's death chamber look modern.

DAVID NETTO

**92** **WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE DIMMERS, USE 15-WATT BULBS TO SIMULATE CANDLELIGHT. WORKS LIKE MAGIC.**

MARY McDONALD

**88** **NEVER PUSH FURNITURE UP AGAINST THE WALLS. BY PULLING YOUR SEATING ARRANGEMENT IN (EVEN JUST A FEW INCHES), YOU INSTANTLY WARM UP A SPACE AND CREATE FLOW.**

BETSY BURNHAM

**93** If you're afraid of stains, use one of the new outdoor upholstery fabrics that are so soft and luxurious, you can't tell that they're made for exterior use.

SCOTT SANDERS

**82** **Leather carpet borders always make a room richer.**

CAMPION PLATT

**89** Use wallpaper in unexpected places: on the ceiling in a paneled room, in closets, hallways, and small foyers. A great pattern or texture in small spaces can be a prodigious twist!

LINSEY CORAL HARPER

**94** **WHEN DOING CURTAINS OR SHADES, TAKE THEM ALL THE WAY UP TO THE CEILING—IT WILL INCREASE THE HEIGHT OF THE ROOM.**

VICENTE WOLF

**96** **The minimum break for drapery panels that hang to the floor is ½". Anything less is like wearing high-water pants!**

JULIE MASSUCCO

**97** **THE ONLY TIME WHITE CURTAIN LINING SHOULD BE USED IS WITH WHITE CURTAINS.**

J. RANDALL POWERS

**98** I always line curtains with a white or off-white fabric. It helps filter the light in a warm, natural way, and from the outside your house won't look carnivalesque.

STEPHEN SHUBEL

**99** **ALWAYS LINE CURTAINS IN THE SAME MATERIAL ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE SO THERE'S CONTINUITY FROM THE OUTSIDE.**

SUSAN ZISES GREEN

**100** **If a great art collection isn't in your budget, hang a framed cutting of a beautiful fabric or wallpaper.**

ALEXANDRA ANGLE

**83** Measure the depth of your dressers, desks, and other furniture before purchasing a rug. The rug should stop before the furniture in most cases.

ANGIE HRANOWSKY

**90** **I LOVE USING AN ANTIQUE TABLE AS A KITCHEN ISLAND. IT GIVES THE ROOM SO MUCH CHARACTER.**

CHRIS BARRETT

**95** I like my curtains just twice the width of the window, not puffy. And a 1" break on the floor—no puddling. I like the look of a long, lean line, more a column than a ball gown on the walls.

CHRISTINA ROTTMAN

**101** **Hang curtains. They make a room seem finished. Think of them as the lipstick of decorating.**

PETER DUNHAM

**Use the precious for everyday purposes. We'll rummage through clients' closets and find loads of precious hand-me-downs like porcelain vases and crystal that are a bit out of vogue. We'll use them for completely ordinary purposes—a vase becomes a chic pencil holder, a crystal bowl holds makeup brushes. Turn the ordinary into a special moment!**

BENJAMIN DHONG