

USA TODAY | 92 TRENDS: MAILBOX BLING TO SHE SHEDS

# HOME

SPRING 2018

MEET 5 FOOD  
INFLUENCERS

BUILD NEW  
OR REMODEL

MADE IN  
AMERICA

Inspire

DISPLAY UNTIL MAY 8, 2018

\$5.99US \$6.99CAN

8 1 >



0 74820 64578 9

## DESIGN DILEMMAS

Experts answer readers' most burning décor questions

**W**e asked our social media followers to challenge our panel of interior designers with their style quandaries. Here are some of their responses:



A total remodel can allow you to design the kitchen of your dreams.

**Q** WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS OF REFACING KITCHEN CABINETS VERSUS TOTAL REPLACEMENT?

— Carol Gage, Alexandria, Va.



**Elizabeth Cross-Beard**  
Jenkins Baer Associates  
Baltimore

Refacing cabinetry can cost significantly less than a total replacement — a huge plus if your existing cabinetry is in great shape, and if the layout and function of each cabinet is as you would envision. When a kitchen is truly dated and will require a complete overhaul (from layout and appliances to lighting and finishes), my advice is to instead repaint

the cabinets and update the cabinet hardware — saving money by not actually changing the cabinet doors and drawers themselves.

The beauty of a total replacement is you can design the kitchen of your dreams. Even with keeping existing plumbing locations, the sky is the limit when creating a kitchen layout from scratch. The caveat with total replacement is that you will likely need to replace your countertops and backsplash, and then the option of a new sink, faucet, that light fixture of your dreams and the amazing I-need-it barstool can add up and spin out of control quickly. Make sure you create a budget and include a line item for every facet of your kitchen renovation before starting total replacement to ensure you stay on target.

**Q HOW CAN I IMPLEMENT MINIMALISM IN A 1928 HOME THAT PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN?**

— *Carla Mills, Mankato, Minn.*



**Marcelle Guilbeau**  
Marcelle Guilbeau  
Interior Designs  
♀ Nashville, Tenn.

Let's say the house is a traditional bungalow, with small rooms and dark, heavy woodwork. Paint all of the walls, woodwork and ceiling white. If the fireplace lies between the dining and living room, consider opening up the walls around it, being mindful of any existing historic woodwork, to allow easy flow. Enlarge

the opening between the kitchen and dining area and turn the kitchen counter into a pass-through. Within that, build a minimalist palette of simple, sculptural furniture. You can go as modern or edgy as you want. Consider a simple, clean-lined sectional for the living room to add seating and simplicity to an otherwise enclosed space.

**Q I'M A RENTER IN AN OLD HOME. A HIGH-CEILINGED WALL IN MY KITCHEN IS A FOCAL POINT, BUT IT'S SO BARE. HOW DO I DETER FROM ITS EMPTINESS WITHOUT HANGING SOMETHING FROM IT?**

— *Sydney Bennett, Pittsburgh*



**Lisa Kahn**  
Lisa Kahn  
Designs  
♀ Naples, Fla.

When renting, it can be challenging to define and personalize your space. But fortunately, even when you have restrictions from your landlord, I've found that a tall wall in a main living space can be accented with more than just artwork or a mirror. I love to bring in something natural to help capture the feeling of sanctuary

that we all need when we come home. To do that, I'll select things like a potted tree or a vase of flowers placed on a console table against the wall. There are other ways to warm up a space, too, like a piece of sculpture or an object like a tall lidded jar. All of these can reflect your personal style, create a focal point and bring a little calm to your world.



Pendant lights can add an elegant touch to a dining room, kitchen or living room.

**Q WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO COORDINATE LIGHT FIXTURES BUT NOT MAKE THEM FEEL MATCHY-MATCHY OR TOO DISJOINTED? I LIKE DIFFERENT STYLES, BUT I WANT THEM TO FEEL COHESIVE.**

— *Toni Danielson, Lakeville, Minn.*



**Keisha Gilchrist**  
SDV Decor  
♀ Hyattsville, Md.

An eclectic look can be achieved by pairing items that work well together without being identical matches. When coordinating light fixtures, consider the size and finish of the lights that you are trying to coordinate. For example, three glass pendants can be paired together if they are of similar scale and finish, but the shapes can be different. I love the idea of mixing pendants over a bar or kitchen countertop — it adds interest to the space. If you can't find three fixtures of the same scale, consider grouping two smaller pendants of the same scale at the end of your trio, with a larger pendant in the middle.

# REIMAGINE

## Your Rooms

TAKE A FRESH APPROACH TO  
UPDATING YOUR ENTIRE HOUSE

BY LISA MARIE HART

**W**e've all been there: You want to revamp at least one room in your home — or maybe every last one of them, but you're stumped on where to start. You might have a definite style in mind, or you fear you might lose your mind trying to select one. That's where our panel of professional designers comes in.

On the following pages, our experts offer top tips, techniques and styling advice that will get you dreaming yet keep you grounded. Whether you're starting with a blank canvas or just an empty nest, their best ideas for redecorating each distinct space include where to start and what to consider along the way.

What we learned: Designers coast-to-coast agree on a few foundational truths. Each room needs a focal point, it pays to invest in quality whenever possible and there's much to gain by taking your time and getting it right. Grab your imagination and open your mind. Here's your room-by-room guide:

Displaying personal items in an organized and balanced way, such as in a multicompartment shelving unit, can make a living room feel inviting and comfortable.



# Living Rooms

Living rooms are attractive, hardworking chameleons, serving as both public and private spaces. Their design challenge lies in achieving a flexibility that lets them be used daily in a meaningful way, then turned around for hosting guests in elegant surroundings at a moment's notice.

"Creating that alchemy where the energy of a person or family extends its welcome is part of the fun," says Lisa Kahn of Lisa Kahn Designs, based in Naples, Fla.

## VISION WITHOUT LIMITATION

Kahn says anyone can approach a living room refresh the same way she does: Consider how the room will be used, then how you want it to feel. "When I get stuck, I thumb through books and periodicals, walk through a museum or look online for images that speak to me," she says. "Sometimes I start by clearing out as much as possible, sitting on the floor and simply being in the quiet empty space."

Decorating begins by envisioning the ultimate "after" picture, Kahn attests. Don't let your budget deflate your dreams. "Even if you can't afford to implement all changes at once, take it in phases so everything meets that end goal," she says. "I find the piecemeal approach of adding a piece here and a piece there with no thought to the overall plan usually results in frustration, lost time and wasted money."

Every room has a few stars that need supporting actors, Kahn says. In a living room, she finds worthy splurges in a knockout piece of artwork, an exquisite light fixture or gorgeous drapery panels. A custom rug or handmade table also has star potential.

## GETTING PERSONAL

"There is a movement toward seeing our spaces as sanctuaries — spaces that speak to the comfort of the body, the curiosity of the



LISA KAHN

LISA KAHN DESIGNS  
Naples, Fla.

**Known for:** Designing "sanctuaries" where raw, organic beauty contrasts refined elegance.

Kahn sees her work as the creation of sacred places where we can relax, refresh our spirits and return to the essence of who we are and what is truly important. Her luxury interior designs have garnered numerous awards and led to the founding of a new movement known as Finding Sanctuary, a fresh perspective on the importance of the built environment to our physical and emotional well-being. Among the ways Kahn shares the concept is an online "7 Days to Sanctuary" class that was scheduled for release in February.

mind and the nurturing of the spirit," Kahn says. Touch on all three for a winning design. "I think we want more than just beautiful backdrops. We are looking for deeply restorative spaces that facilitate living more joyful lives."

She has personalized living rooms to foster hobbies such as reading, a cherished activity like sharing a bottle of wine among loved ones and to feature a collection of books or objet d'art.

"Real life is often at odds with magazine-perfect rooms," she notes. "That being said, a beautifully curated collection of objects on a centrally located table can be visually stunning and easily set up as a focal point that can change with the season."

## WELCOME THEM HOME

As for spatial arrangement, balance and symmetry put everyone at ease. To provide a sense of graciousness and authenticity, bring the outdoors in. Referencing nature in a subtle way, such as shells or birds, soothes your guests. Use a light but thoughtful hand. Excessive assorted collectibles or furnishings can crowd a living space, which needs room to breathe. Yet a room too sparse or styled can seem cold or contrived.

Kahn's trick to accessorizing this dual-functioning space? "Simplicity is best. A fresh orchid plant in a crisp blue and white porcelain pot or a pile of beautiful books with an object on top are two of my favorites," she says. "I also love a specimen of rock crystal on a stand. The energy crystals bring to a space can be almost incandescent."

Conversation pieces are a natural fit for this communal room. "I love when products have a story," she says. Lately, she has been shopping Imagine Home, a small company that works with artisans around the world to make handcrafted, organic and chemical-free furniture, fabrics and accessories.

# DESIGNER *Tips*



LISA KAHN

LIVING ROOM

**Beautiful pillows and a soft throw** can dress up any sofa by adding color, texture and interest, and they also make the seating area more inviting.



MARCELLE GUILBEAU

DINING ROOM

**Smaller dining spaces** can benefit from the use of a bench on one side of a table. Place captains chairs with arms at each end for added luxury.



ELIZABETH CROSS-BEARD

KITCHEN

**Stools add layers and warmth** to a kitchen by introducing a furniture element, and they also are an invitation for gathering and conversation.



KEIRA ST. CLAIRE-BOWERY

BEDROOM

**A sitting area** elevates the feel of a bedroom to that of a suite. The setting offers a cozy spot to relax and enjoy a glass of wine or a good book.



ELIZABETH CROSS-BEARD

BATHROOM

**Adding an unexpected element** (like a black soaking tub) to a bathroom can elevate the space and create more of a collected feel.



SAVRE ZISKIN

BASEMENT

**Using ottomans as a coffee table** provides flexibility because they can easily be pulled apart for extra seating or moved to free up floor space.