

DESIGNING *for* YOU

Learn how to define your style and purchase only the essentials for spaces that will always feel like home.

BY KATHLEEN BIRMINGHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRIK ARGAST

PRETTY IN PASTELS

A dreamy monochromatic look in white was applied to the living and dining areas, turning the space into a blank canvas for art. From the light fixtures to the various textures, a variety of accents and patterns, and the custom-painted artwork by Andi Yablonski, create a cohesive look with pastels.



Before

After

SLEEK AND CHIC

In this serene, gray bedroom, a single accent wall draws the eyes to the focal point of the room, further embellished with a pop of color from the throw pillows. By focusing the attention on just one wall, the look is more impactful. The vibe of the space is now bright, airy and modern.

After

Before



USING JUST A FEW NEW PIECES, SOME PAINT AND CLEVER INGENUITY, INTERIOR DESIGNER LAURA MARTIN BOVARD TURNED A DARK, MOODY HOME INTO A COLORFUL AND GLAMOROUS OASIS.

This homeowner loves gray, but her previous efforts were darker and colder than she wanted. "I kept a gray color, but choose a lighter, warmer tone to give a feeling of higher energy in the space. Immediately the living room opened up and felt so much bigger. Never underestimate the power of a new coat of paint."

Here, we get this insider's tips to see just how Laura did it.

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

The majority of the design budget went to a couple good pieces of furniture. This, according to Laura, is one of the key elements to a good design. "You have to have a couple of quality pieces. Save up and do maybe one custom cabinet as we did. Then, layer it with other things that are less expensive," she says.

An affordable mirror, a repainted lamp and a lampshade with ribbon give the room a custom look. "You must exercise restraint and avoid overdoing it. Mix interesting textures. White is the cohesive color we use throughout the space," she says.

As a designer, one of Laura's best pieces of advice is to pare things down. "Most people have too much stuff. Do not bring anything into your home that you do not love. Fill your home only with things that have meaning to you."

WALLS THAT WOW

For many people, purchasing high-end wallpaper for a room can stretch the budget too thin for comfort. Here are Laura Martin Bovard's tips for a custom design at an affordable cost.

- **Maximize Your Efforts:** Consider doing a special treatment on a single wall rather than all the walls of the bedroom. Choose the wall that will provide the greatest impact. Just as in this design project, you might want to focus on the wall behind the bed. You can get the same look as custom wallpaper by either creating a stencil or

purchasing a stencil from Etsy, a local home furnishing shop or hardware store.

- **Working Wonders:** Laura says that if you can't afford the really high-end wallpaper, consider purchasing peel-and-stick wallpaper. Amazon, Target and Etsy have more unique designs to give you that one-of-a-kind look. Easier than traditional wallpaper, this type creates immediate impact that completely changes the energy of your space.
- **Complete the Look:** Wallpapering just one wall can still have an astonishing impact on the room when you paint the remaining walls in a coordinating color. Bring in colorful accents to the room, such as throw pillows, to really add some punch to your design.

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CUSTOM CREATION

As a way to fill up a small space and actually make the wall feel bigger, a custom-made cabinet by Thomas Featherston was built to fit within half an inch of the entire space, giving it the look of a built-in. The cabinet provides extra storage and also serves double-duty as a bar.



MAKE YOUR HOUSE A HOME

For a diverse, layered look, Laura used a plethora of rich textures and fabrics. The black and white faux porcupine quills on the mirror add an unexpected element, while the green plant draws the eyes up.

“I also like to stack books that have had their colorful covers removed,” Laura says. “I just love that linen-like color and texture, it’s very rich and high-end looking.”

To get a modern and glamorous look, consider what you really like and define your sense of style. A monochromatic wall color can provide the perfect background for pops of color and texture on everything from your furniture to the lighting and personal touches. When you get rid of things you don’t really like and only keep the essentials, you’ll find that you absolutely love your newly designed space.

See Sources, page 128.



STYLE FILE

- **Insider Secret:** Laura says to have fun designing your home and don’t try to make it look like someone else’s. If you were to go into a showroom and buy everything on display, you would likely be disappointed because your spaces would lack personality. Furnish and style your home with things that you love and that have meaning to you.
- **Budget Basics:** The first budget rule is to use what you have first. With the exception of the custom-made bar and bedside tables, almost everything else in this space was the homeowner’s. The soft yellow lamp in the living room was previously a bright orange, but the color was too vivid for the new design. Now, the lamp blends in beautifully.
- **Easy Idea, Big Impact:** There are a couple of ways to get a great look with relatively little effort. One that Laura used in this project was to take a plain lampshade and, with two different widths of gray grosgrain ribbon, embellish the bottom with a hot glue gun (see opposite page).

For more information on Bay Area interior designer Laura Martin Bovard, visit lmbinteriors.com.