

Bougie *on a Budget*

If you've ever scrolled through your feed, gawking at room after fabulous room, and wondered, "How does everyone afford all this?"—we're with you. The good news is that some of those spaces only *look* expensive. Top designers share their tricks to faking the fancy (and not going broke).

BY LESLIE CORONA

DIY Painted "Wallpaper"

PRICEY PAPER IS AVOIDABLE WITH SOME BRUSHSTROKES AND A STEADY HAND.



**Carmeon
Hamilton**
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
@carmeonhamilton

When it comes to accent walls, Carmeon understands the assignment. Forgoing wallpaper, she hand-painted a patterned mural using an artist brush. The entire thing took about an hour and cost less than \$75, and the imperfect lines give it an artisan look. "I always opt for custom touches to truly reflect me and set my home apart," Carmeon says.





DIY

Decorative Mirror

AN OVERSIZE VINTAGE-INSPIRED MIRROR FEELS JUST GRAND.



Krista Wells

BONAVISTA,
CANADA

@georgestownonmymind

How do you take a basic mirror and turn it into a statement piece worthy of the mantel? Ask Krista, who upcycled a builder-grade vanity mirror by applying self-adhesive faux lead lines (Gallery Glass Instant Lead Lines, \$18; amazon.com) in a symmetrical pattern near the frame. "Mirrors can be costly, so I made my version of an antique to fit the style of our 19th-century home," she says.



Fab Floor Tiles

NO NEED TO RIP UP YOUR KITCHEN OR BATHROOM—MAKE IT OVER FROM THE GROUND UP WITH VINYL FLOOR DECALS.



Elizabeth Rees

MILWAUKEE
@chasingpaper



Elizabeth is *all* for peel-and-stick tiles, like this kitchen's black-and-white combo from her company, Chasing Paper. "It's the perfect solution for rentals when you need to cover up some ugly flooring," she says. **TO BUY:** (From left) Marble Flooring, \$50 for 8 tiles; chasingpaper.com. Marrakesh Peel and Stick Floor Tiles, \$21 for 10; wallpops.com. Porto Flooring, \$50 for 8 tiles; chasingpaper.com.



Camille Kurtz
SAN MARCOS,
CALIFORNIA
@the_kurtz_home

DIY **Marbled Countertop**

THOSE WITH A LITTLE DIY CONFIDENCE CAN
FAKE A NATURAL STONE SURFACE USING A FEW SWIRLS OF PAINT.

Luxury countertops make a kitchen look high-end, and Camille proves you can have them without paying a fortune for high-maintenance marble. Inspired by an engineered-quartz slab, she used the Giani Belgotta Black Marble Countertop Paint Kit (\$200; gianigranite.com) to cover existing granite. She spread out the project over a few days—first rolling on black primer, then spraying on the veining, then pouring on epoxy resin for the ultra-shiny topcoat. With only a few hiccups (don't go nuts with the spray!), her efforts paid off in a very cool counterfeit.





OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF CAMILLE KURTZ (2). THIS PAGE: COURTESY OF STEPHEN AND DAVID ST. RUSSELL (2); PRODUCT IMAGES COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS



Stephen and David St. Russell
BOSTON
@renovationhusbands

Crystalesque Chandelier

STEPHEN AND DAVID SPLURGED ON THIS GLAM FIXTURE FOR A TRADITIONAL SITTING ROOM TO WOW GUESTS. WE LOVED THEIRS SO MUCH, WE FOUND SIMILAR OPTIONS AT BARGAIN PRICES.



TO BUY: (From left) Interior Decor Painted Brass Light Chandelier, \$135; overstock.com. Modernist LED Task Lighting with Beveled Crystal Shade, \$207; litfad.com. Stiffel Handry Brass Wall Sconce, \$150; lampsplus.com.



DIY Wall Trim

GIVE ROOMS A VICTORIAN VIBE WITH MOLDING.



Cynthia Moreno
LOS ANGELES
@hotpinkpineapples

DIY Burl Wood Table

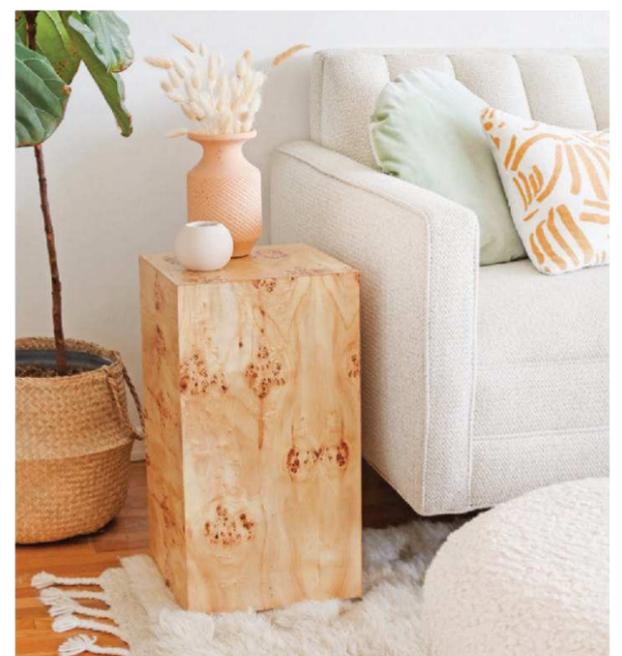
YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT'S BASIC PLYWOOD, THANKS TO ITS SWANKY VENEER.

Burl wood furniture is all the rage in the design world right now, but the real deal can cost an arm and a leg. If you can't swing it, take a cue from Cynthia, who applied a burl veneer (\$38 for 4 8-by-18-in. pieces; woodcraft.com) to cuts of plywood to construct a simple side table. Not a builder? Use this technique on a premade piece. It works just as well!



Alisa Bovino
NEW JERSEY
@aglassofbovino

If you daydream about living on the set of *Bridgerton* but your place is pretty modern, now's your chance to do you. Copy Alisa's tactic for faking architectural details, like wall panels, by adding wood molding and baseboards—all of which she picked up for cheap from her local home improvement store. She used a miter saw to cut the pieces to fit, but the store can do that for you. Cover with the paint color of your choice, using a glossier version for the trim so it catches the light.



Upscale Window Treatments

FLOOR-TO-CEILING DRAPES INSTANTLY BOOST
A ROOM'S RITZ FACTOR.



Candace Griffin

CHICAGO

@candacemaryinteriors

Luxuriously full window coverings look posh, but you don't have to break the bank to get them. For a "moody parlor" aesthetic, Candace found curtains on [halfpricedrapes.com](https://www.halfpricedrapes.com) that matched her living room's dark bluish-gray paint. She hung the panels almost at the top of the 11-foot walls to add more va-va-voom. "Bringing the curtains up to the ceiling creates the illusion of a much taller room," she says. Rods in timeless brass offer quiet sophistication.

Durable and hard to snag, velvet panels are a sturdy (and elegant) choice.



OPPOSITE PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY OF ALISA BOVINO (2); COURTESY OF HOTPINKPINEAPPLES (2). THIS PAGE: HEADSHOT COURTESY OF MALAIKA HILSON; COURTESY OF ERIN KONRATH PHOTOGRAPHY