

HOME STYLE

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HOW TO BE HOLLYWOOD-HIP

Univision star
Cristina
Saralegui

WELCOME HOME!

Your home is important, not only because it's a major financial investment, but also because it's the place where your family gathers to share wonderful moments together. That's why we're pleased to bring you this edition of HomeStyle, your source for up-to-date home-improvement information and creative decorating ideas that truly make your house a home.

Baby Room on a Budget

Sleep will be at a minimum, but finances don't have to be. Decorating for your new arrival without going into debt is easier than you think.

Please Be Seated

Tips for creating a dining room that can expand to seat a holiday's bumper crop of guests, invited and otherwise. Patricia

Give Me Sanctuary

Too much hustle and bustle? Turn off the tube and transform your bedroom into your own private hotel suite, room service not included.



On the cover: Meet the Designer: Cristina Saralegui Univision star Cristina Saralegui, the "Queen Spanish TV," knows what it takes to turn a home from flavorless to fabulous. Here's what the talk-show host turned home-furnishings designer has to say about letting your personal style shine through at home.

Get Real! Retro Kitchen Do's and Don'ts

Something old and something new – it's a neat tradition when it comes to what a bride wears on her wedding day. Mixing throwback designs with modern styles in the kitchen is a far riskier venture. Here's what to keep in mind.

Bathrooms without Borders

With the addition of spa-like features and amenities such as sofas, morning kitchens, massage tables and televisions, the formal, walled-in bathroom is giving way to a more open floor plan where bedroom and bathroom merge. Have we lost our modesty?

Notoriously BIG

Little things may mean a lot, but the race for ever-larger luxury home appliances shows no signs of slowing.

How to Be Hollywood-Hip

You, too, can live like a Hollywood mogul.

The Painting's on the Wall

How to prep any room for a brand-new hue.

Book Learning:

Tips, Shortcuts and How-To's for Homebodies



There's a small hotel... at home: up the sanctuary factor of your bedroom with soft colors, a rich mix of textures and fine linens

Pittsburgh Paints

Give Me Sanctuary

Too much hustle and bustle? Turn off the tube and transform your bedroom into your own private hotel suite, room service not included.

By MATTHEW M. F. MILLER
CTW Features

Pillows, blankets and a comfortable mattress more often play second fiddle to televisions and treadmills in the modern bedroom. Limited space and time has inserted convenience into the room primarily designed for rest and relaxation as homeowners spend less time in the living room.

"People want time alone to

be by themselves," Josette Buisson says, artistic director of Pittsburgh Paints, Montreal. "I have only boys in my house and all they watch is sports." Buisson says that 61 percent of American kids have a television in their room, and that the living room has become a less of a gathering spot as technology allows more freedom to entertain in individual spaces.

Davis Remignanti, lead design consultant for Furniture.com,

believes the bedroom is the new basement, and it's where we store all of the detritus and clutter we don't want our guests to see. "People say, 'Oh let's just throw it in the bedroom,' when it really is supposed to be about sleep."

The first step to turning a busy, multi-tasking bedroom into a sanctuary is to dispense with what you don't like.

Buisson says that people feel they have to hold on to heir-

looms or items that had meaning for them in the past, but that ultimately those things keep us from fully relaxing. Remignanti suggests paring down the amount of furniture in the room. "There's a certain Japanese sense of spare-ness that is relaxing," he says.

De-cluttering is the next step. All non-sleep related items, especially exercise equipment, should go. "A treadmill is not something you want to think

about, or trip over, every night," says Buisson, who believes it is a constant reminder of unfinished business. She recommends thinking about our bedrooms as if they were boutique hotel rooms, incorporating soft blankets, towels, sheets and aromas that appeal to all five senses. "Create a place with individuality. If you like to read, add a comfy chair and a lamp. First make it functional, then make it beautiful," she says.

Arrangement is key, but Remignanti says Feng Shui isn't necessary. "I don't believe having your feet pointing to a door gives you better rest, but I do think you should avoid putting your head under a window." Where possible, looking out a window from bed is key. Most important, Remignanti says, is to experiment. "My one rule is to not put all furniture against the wall. Try placing things on an angle." Make sure practical considerations, such as being able to get to all sides of the bed to make it, are in order.

Adding scents, such as lavender to promote sleep, and relaxation music will help calm the body by establishing a distinct boundary between your room sounds and smells of the day. New alarm clocks emit light to mimic the sunrise, aiding the circadian cycle and giving the body light it needs to wake up naturally.

If you absolutely must have a TV and the budget will bear it, Buisson recommends opting for an unobtrusive flat screen model. "Then you can hide it away and not have to look at it," she says. "I disagree with having



Liz Clairborne Home

Simplify for relaxation's sake: stow media in a closed armoire and banish clutter and exercise equipment to another room.

a television in the bedroom: we're in the bad habit of feeling we need to be constantly entertained. The bedroom should be a place to unwind. We can be reached 24/7 via email and Blackberry, and we need to respond to our need for down

time," Buisson says.

Remignanti agrees: "There are better things to do in your bedroom than watch reruns of 'Everybody Loves Raymond.'"

© CTW Features

Tips for Resting in Peace

Here are Remignanti's tips on how to turn your multi-purpose "sleep space" into a luxurious retreat from the hectic life:

- **Get away from it all.** Start by thinking "sanctuary" and begin designing a true retreat with a focus on your favorite pastime. Whether you love to paint, read, exercise or listen to music, don't crowd your activity: provide the desk space, storage, or comfy seating that it requires.
- **Savor your Zzz's.** At the end of the day, the bedroom is about sleeping, and your bed is where you likely spend around a 1/3 of each day. Since a good night's sleep will make all the difference tomorrow, consider upgrading your mattress or simply adding fresh new bedding. Then, stretch out and relax.
- **Shun the distractions.** Escape from the world by hiding away larger electronics – television, stereo components and computer – in an armoire. You'll have easy access to your media channels when you want them, but can easily shut them out of sight when you don't.
- **Showcase your passion.** If you love it, let it show. When redecorating, resist the impulse to pack away mementoes. Instead, look for opportunities to showcase souvenirs and photos of what you love to do and the people you love to be with. A true retreat is not just a getaway, but a celebration of your passions.
- **Look up.** Don't forget vertical space. Carry the retreat theme into the third dimension by updating your walls with a fresh new color. You can also put them to work. Walls are frequently an underutilized resource: examine where you can add shelving, storage options, or a new piece of artwork.
- **Lighten up your outlook.** Any room makeover calls for a fresh look at lighting. Survey the room and consider specific task needs. The lighting requirements in a new activity area will differ from that in dressing and sleeping areas. For extra convenience and ambiance, consider putting your primary lights on a dimmer switch.
- **Feel groovy.** When accessorizing, follow the practice originated in China of honoring the environment indoors. Where possible, introduce water, wind chimes, color and crystals into your design.

© CTW Features

RETRO

FIT OR MISS FOR YOUR KITCHEN ?



Caption

BY MATTHEW M. F. MILLER
CTW Features

Canary yellow's resurgence was only a harbinger of dated things to come. Retro décor has been a consumer mainstay since the first Austin Powers film of the early 90s made it hip to look 60s again, and products ranging from turquoise Kitchen Aid mixers to classic rotary telephones assumed vibrant hues and a sense of whimsy.

Now, a multitude of fashionable items from the mid-20th century are being mined as a way to blend the quaint styles of past generations with modern convenience. Creating a visual relationship between the "old" and new in your home, however, can be a cumbersome hurdle for amateur designers.

"Retro is a very definite look. It evokes thoughts of the 1950's woman with an apron pulling a cake from the old Frigidaire," Arthur Tanturri says, owner and operator of Chelsea Kitchens, New York City. "If you're interested in that style, take it all the way through. It's not easy to integrate a retro fridge in a modern kitchen with cherry cabinets and hardwood flooring."

What started small with the revisiting of classic countertop items, such as toasters, juicers, and blenders, has now segued into larger appliances and kitchen features. The Northstar refrigerator and range from Elmira Stove Works, Elmira, Ontario, recreates pull-down latches, rounded corners and chrome accents, moving the trend from accessory to dominating feature. Tanturri also sees the return of cast iron, double basin sinks and the emergence of enameled microwaves and

dishwashers lending modern amenities a bygone style from an era in which they didn't exist. "There's a store down the street with these amazing retro displays and people just stop and say, 'wow!'" Tanturri says.

Rosemary Abell, head designer for DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen, Waco, Texas, says, "What retro does is give you color and punch, but it's important, from a design aspect, to consider the whole." Stainless steel, smoked glass and metal are all components to making the room pop, but Abell says that the key is to think hospitality and simplicity.

"There are always a lot of guests in the kitchen, so go for a place where everyone will feel comfortable. All of these colors and textures add warmth, but is you feel it's too busy, you've gone too far," she says.

Tanturri urges decorators to consider not only what the rest of the room looks like, but also the rest of the home. "There's value to some difference, it keeps it from being hum-drum, but you can't have an ultra modern living room leading into a country dining room with a retro kitchen," Tanturri says.

Although the major appliances are available in colors ranging from mint green to flamingo pink, she suggests adding bolder items such as a powder blue mixer, a retro clock or a vintage painting to carry the bulk of the retro style. "To make it work, though, it's important to do the big, stable items in a more neutral color and opt for retro accessories. Those things add retro design without altering the kitchen, which will limit resale value," Abell says.

For homeowners unsure of



their longevity in their current home, sinking money into a specific look can sacrifice a lot with potential buyers. Look at what else you are going to bring in besides the pink fridge. Start with the major appliances first, and then figure out your cooking needs, storage requirements and space allocations – retro items tend to be wider. Abell says that if you fail to cohere to the architectural style of your kitchen, all eyes, including yours, will keep looking at that one thing that doesn't belong.

Countertops, where the norm has become granite, are also attempting to go back in time. For its new collection, Formica refreshed its VirrVarr style countertop to feature a powdery blue background with gray lines criss-crossing one another. The pattern also is available in white with gray lines to give a modern update to the 1950's staple.

"The world is willing to take a chance again on color for colors' sake," says Renee Hytry, senior vice president global design, Formica Corporation.

"Formica's new classics collection allows designers to reinvest in retro color influences from the 50s and 60s, when graphic patterns and bright colors were used in everyday environments, signaling an openness to change."

This openness to color and change is a fun look, but one that Tanturri, the resident kitchen design expert for HGTV, recommends be done modestly.

"One thing I wanted for my kitchen counter was a blender, the kind with the motor underneath the countertop and controls along the edge. I also wanted a textured glass cutting board, frosted with a stainless steel band that is backlit. These are retro touches that are doable in any style," he says Tanturri.

Wood cabinets are a definite no with retro according to designers. Stick with metal cabinets, or something with a glass door that will adhere to the style. Both Tanturri and Abell suggest that those going full-steam ahead should consider black and white tiled flooring,

or even a terrazzo floor that replicates linoleum.

If designers appear are a bit skeptical of retro's long-term success in a kitchen, consumers don't seem to share their concerns.

"The retro rage keeps gaining momentum. We're getting huge interest from all age groups including people who can't even remember the fifties, but they like the look and attitude," says Brian Hendrick, Elmira's vice president of sales & marketing. "We're seeing them ordered for trendy garage renovations, retro kitchens, loft apartments, 50s home restorers and others who just want a taste of nostalgia in their home."

"Would I get tired of it? Yes. Does it make sense for a rental? No. This is for people who collect Betty Boop dolls. Retro is strictly for having fun. I say if you want it, really go for it. It's pretty much all or nothing the way I see it. It's like wearing madras with bellbottoms. They just won't go together," Tanturri says.

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Photograph by Peter Rymwid; designed by Holly Rickert

Bathroom without borders: Here and at right, an open plan in an award-winning bathroom.

BATHROOMS WITHOUT BORDERS

Think a door on the bathroom is a given? Not when you're creating a master suite – where the bedroom and bathroom merge into a relaxing retreat.

BY MICHELLE TAUTE
CTW Features

Miss Manners might tell you it's rude not to close the bathroom door before slipping into a bubble bath for a long soak. But in this case, her well-meaning advice would be a tad behind the times.

Doors and walls are no longer a given when it comes to the dividing line between the bedroom and bathroom. In some homes, these two spaces are merging to create the perfect spot to unwind after a long day at work. The new master

suite brings spa features home – and right into the bedroom.

So let's get back to that hot bath. After adjusting to the water, you could have a conversation with your spouse as he or she watches TV in bed. No shouting required. Don't feel like talking? Just tune into your favorite show on the TV near the tub.

If this sounds like a vacation at an upscale resort, there's good reason. "The hospitality industry is having a huge influence on what people want in their personal bathrooms," says Alan Hilsabeck Jr., a designer at

Premier Kitchens & Baths, Dallas. "People will say, 'I just got back from the W Hotel and I want my master suite to mimic what I saw.'"

This means waving goodbye to the lonely showerhead and featureless tub. While amenities vary as widely as tastes and budgets, a typical master suite includes an oversized shower, fancy tub, and his and hers vanities. Add-ons range from morning kitchens and workout rooms to seating areas with upholstered furniture.

Often, the shower is big enough for two, and there's a wide range of choices for water delivery, including dual showerheads, hand showers, overhead rainfall heads or a full-body spray. "There might be six nozzles shooting out at you from

different heights," says Lori Carroll, an interior designer at Lori Carroll and Associates, Tucson, Ariz. "It's kind of like a car wash."

When it comes to tubs, there's a trend toward bubbler models over whirlpool versions. The former can be more relaxing with warm air bubbles that rise from the bottom of the tub, creating a more calming experience than powerful jets. For the visually inclined, there are chromatherapy tubs with soothing, colorful lights built-in to brighten up the water. Bathers can choose their favorite hue or let the tub automatically cycle through a rainbow of choices.

While spa and luxury features are one of the strongest trends in bathrooms, there's more of a mixed response to open floor

plans. Hilsabeck says homeowners who fully embrace the concept might use the tub or vanities as the transition between bedroom and bath. The shower typically offers partial privacy while the toilet resides behind a partition or in its own small room. "I would definitely say there's less modesty for the society as a whole," he says. "Look at the entertainment industry. What used to be R is PG-13." In some cases, however, there's still a need for seclusion. Holly Rickert, a designer with Ulrich in Ridgewood, N.J., says one factor is a couple's age. Families with young children, for example, may want to stick with a door in order to create much-needed private space.

Where you live also may influence whether you want to

start tearing down doors and walls. “We don’t see as much of the open plan in the Midwest,” says Lynn Schrage, a designer and marketing manager at The Kohler Store in Chicago. “Part of the reason is the climate. It’s hard to stay warm six months out of the year when you’re showering.”

Luckily, it’s not an all or nothing proposition. In some cases, there’s simply an open passage-way between the bedroom and bathroom. Other homeowners opt for half-walls or even French doors with frosted glass. “Visually you’re disconnected, but there’s still light transfer,” Rickert says about the latter option.

But open or closed, bathrooms are growing in size and now feature almost every perk imaginable. One of Rickert’s clients opted for a large waterfall within the shower for ambiance rather than bathing. Water runs down a copper face, into a trough and then re-circulates. It provides a focal point while showering or pleasant background noise while standing at the sink.

Other upgrades include heated floors, flat-screen TVs and sound systems. To increase the comfort level even more, some homeowners choose to add sofas, chairs or benches in the bathroom. Carroll usually opts for vinyl fabric to stand up against water.

Then there are more specialized touches. Schrage has seen



Moen

homeowners add meditation or relaxation rooms, separate makeup areas and even enclosed showers that double as steam rooms. For the fitness minded, a small workout room with a maximum of three or four pieces of equipment can be incorporated. Those who want sustenance without trekking across the house add morning kitchens, with coffee makers, small refrigerators and sometimes even another small sink.

Think you may need an upgrade of your own? Before you start buying fixtures, Hilsabeck says it’s important to make sure your house can handle the water needs of those new products. A plumber or

designer can make sure you’ve got the pipes and water pressure necessary to handle special tub and shower features.

His other advice: Choose a design professional who specializes in bathrooms. They’ll have a better handle on what’s available and know how to solve any bathroom-specific challenges. He also recommends heading to your designer’s office with pictures from your favorite home-design magazines in hand. They’ll give the designer a good feel for your style and preferences – and you’ll be happier with the finished product.

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Meet the Designer

Cristina Satlequi

The talk-show host turned home-furnishings designer knows what it takes to turn a home from flavorless to fabulous.

By PATRICIA V. RIVERA
CTW Features

Spanish-language TV talk-show queen Cristina Saralegui grew up in an ultra-modern home in Cuba, wishing she really lived in the more traditional hacienda down the street. She calls that conflict schizophrenic. But really, even at a young age, she had a well-defined taste for the more the comfortable and rustic look that blends style with culture. As an adult, years after her family exiled her homeland, she built an island refuge in Miami inspired by her grandparent's Mediterranean-style home. Inside, she made the space hers with folk art that reflected her European and Latin American roots. Life, she says, is eclectic, vibrant and full of contrast. Her home reflects her life.

These days, when she's not entertaining the 100 million viewers worldwide with "El Show de Cristina" she's expanding her home-furnishing collections that include furniture, rugs, linens and accessories. Known as Casa Cristina, the pieces blend designs from Mediterranean, Afro-Cuban and pre-Colombian cultures. "I have little lines within lines so that it doesn't become something from one country of origin that everyone else won't be interested in looking at because it doesn't have anything to do with them." The 58-year-old executive producer turned designer shares insight into her inspiration and the importance of personal style.

Homestyle: How did a television producer start creating a home-furnishing collection?

Cristina: Two years ago, my husband, who is my business partner, said 'Baby, we



Casa Cristina: A new home-furnishings line has taken Cristina Saralegui out of the TV and into the living room. "All my life I've know the importance of having a personal style," she says.

have license. We have a TV show. We have our own studios. Would you like to try your luck at product?' I was 'Yeah, why not, an adventure.' The first people that the agents brought to the table was Pulaski Furniture and it worked out very well. All my life I've known the importance of having a personal style. They gave me the chance to explain about my style, my peo-

ple and my market, and they taught me about good furniture and good price points. When we started this adventure, I was living in a 1932 Mediterranean house in South Beach, which was inspired by my grandparents. That's what I base this collection after.

HS: How is personal style important

in your life?

CS: I have a daughter who is a banker. She just got married two years ago. We always joke about having your personal style and having the guts to have your home be a reflection of you. We talk about how good taste is an educational process where you file away at your rough edges as you age. Often women are afraid to show that personal taste in their homes. They may have it in their hair or wardrobe. But they have a hard time surrounding themselves with what they love in their homes.

HS: What did your family surround itself with as you were growing up in Cuba?

CS: It's so funny because in Cuba my parents lived about a block away from my grandparents. My grandparents' home was the center for the family. They live in a Mediterranean-style home that I loved. It was the place everyone would go to on Sundays. We'd eat with the grandparents and then go into the pool. My parents built their own home, a very modern one with two floors, glass ceilings and a pond in the middle of the house. I grew up in a very modern house lusting for the Mediterranean house in the corner.

HS: What do you enjoy the most about your role as a designer?

CS: I'm not really a designer. You know what I am? I'm a great editor. I worked as an editor-in-chief for many years. I have an eye for design. Always I had this creative part of me that I had to hold back on. I tried to create a certain environment in all our houses. But I've also been working my tail off since I was 16. Being in exile, I wanted to make sure I could do best for my kids. For me it has been like a process, like when you really love something but you can't pay attention to it because you're a producer, a writer, an editor. Finally, I'm in my third career, and I'm so fulfilled because I can do it all. I feel like I'm playing. I enjoy the thought process. I



Hickory Chair

do a lot of research. When I work with my partners, like, let's say we're working on lamps. We may talk about Afro-Cuban musical instruments and then they use that information to figure out how create something different. I love that.

HS: How would you define your personal style at home?

CS: Eclectic, no doubt about it. My husband used to play with Gloria Estefan in Miami Sound Machine. He traveled the world with a conga tour. He's also 11 years younger than me. I'm a baby boomer and he's a baby boomer want-to-be. We're pretty picturesque. You see stuff from everywhere. But it all has a reason and flavor. I decided that if I was going to be an eclectic I wanted to live in a certain way with a message. You can't throw everything together and hope it fits. It doesn't work that way.

HS: What mistake do you think people make when defining their style?

CS: The biggest mistake I see is that half the time their house is

Landmark moments: Sarlegui's Corner Family Chest comes with eight attached picture frames, making it not just another piece of furniture but a portal to special memories.

not theirs. In other words they take out the good dishes when there is company. There are entire living rooms that nobody goes into every day because it's formal. You can walk into this house with tennis shoes, go into the formal living room and walk on the furniture. It's got Scotch-guard. So I would say make it comfortable and use the good stuff on yourself even if you're eating alone.

HS: How do you start creating a personal style on a budget?

CS: The most important thing on a budget is to get quality pieces at good prices. I'm not

saying cheap. I'm saying good prices. So whatever you invest in is that, an investment. Get the big pieces and invest in them. Everything else falls around it. Where I come from, things are not disposable. My daughter still has her furniture set from when she lived at the house and that now is in her spare bedroom.

Comfort, elegance and taste have nothing to do with spending huge

amounts of money. It's like art. We collect art. When we first got married and we didn't have any money. We collected little Central American primitive art pieces. It was inexpensive but it made the house happy. I still have them. Now my husband collects Cuban art from the 1920s and 1930s and that's very expensive. But we still kept the little pieces. That's the only way get tradition in life. You should not be ashamed of keeping stuff that is a little old and maybe a little chipped.

To see Cristina's home furnishing collection, visit www.cristinaonline.com/english/

Corner Counsel

The Casa Cristina collection includes a piece for what Cristina calls the most "misunderstood places in your home": the corners. She created the Corner Family Chest to tuck easily into the corner of any living space. With its eight attached picture frames, this is more than just a furniture piece. With the right accessories, this or another or corner piece can turn a corner into a nook that takes you to a destination or life moment.

Cristina offers the following tips to create and personalize a tiny refuge:

- Fill it with pictures from a recent trip or from a life moment.
- Find a place for stationery to make it the place you write old-fashioned letters – or even write out checks for bills.
- Make it multi-functional so that it draws you back more often.
- Keep it new by changing the photos often.
- Remember the last touch like beautiful flowers or an aromatic candle.

NOTORIOUSLY BIG

Little things may mean a lot, but the race for ever-larger luxury home appliances shows no signs of slowing.

By TIMOTHY R. SCHULTE
CTW Features

More than 40 compact cars are expected to be on the market by 2010, as rising fuel costs convince drivers to trade in their hulking, gas-guzzling sport-utility vehicles.

While the road to the future may be small, the hallway to the future appears destined to be nothing but big. Massive, in fact, judging from some of the newest appliances destined to be shoehorned down hallways into the hearts of homes.

The reign of the king-sized bed as the ultimate in household heft is long gone. Home opulence is reaching new heights – and widths – all through the house. All hail the gigantic-screen TV, the doublewide refrigerator, the walk-in wine cooler.

A Coldwell Banker 2005 survey showed that home theaters and gourmet kitchens trailed only landscaping among amenities high-end homeowners planned to put into their home. And what better to satisfy a pair of hungry eyes than an extra-large helping of



flat-screen TV.

NO SCREEN TOO BIG

For the ultimate in bigness, nothing compares to Panasonic's jaw-dropping 103-inch plasma TV, introduced in August 2006. At 450 pounds, 50 inches tall and 89 inches wide, it's the current benchmark in big-screen TVs. The Panasonic behemoth may not hold the title long. This is one frontier with no limit in sight.

"How big can this thing really get? Frankly, we don't know," says Jeff Cove, vice president of technology for Panasonic, Secaucus, N.J.

The trend in TVs has always followed the "bigger is better" arc. In the past, though, there was a tradeoff: a larger screen size came with a cumbersome unit and a blurry picture. That changed with the introduction of high-definition programming and flat-panel LCD and plasma

displays.

Flat screens packed lots of pixels into a comparatively compact unit. "It was no longer intrusive when it got into your living room," Cove says. Not only did consumers respond to the aesthetics, but continuing price drops have made it easier for consumers to tip a little extra for some tube.

"For a few dollars more [than a 42-inch] I can get a 50; for a few dollars more I can get a 58. People are stepping themselves up," Cove says.

The consumer's quest for "an immersive experience" in home entertainment means the TV size race is bound to continue for some time. "Quality television is most important," Cove says. "The living room is becoming a destination for good pictures and good sounds."

ROOM FOR ANYTHING

It may seem like we forget about the kitchen – everyone eats in front of the TV, right? – but it's just as hot when it comes to big. More square footage in homes is being devoted to kitchen space, according to the 2006 Home Design Trends Survey by the American Institute of Architects.



Supersize me: From GE (at top) double wide refrigerator/freezer: (above and right) walk-in wine vault





Flat screens pack lots of pixels into a comparatively compact unit. "It was no longer intrusive when it got into your living room," says Jeff Cove, vice president of technology for Panasonic.

And big appliances are one way to fill that space.

Many whole refrigerator or whole freezer units offer as much space as traditional side-by-side or top-bottom combos. Paired side-by-side, they provide double the space with the same effect.

"Refrigerators have increased in size steadily since the early 1990s, says Allison Eckelcamp, a program manager for GE Consumer & Industrial, who recently rolled out the 72-inch Monogram bottom-freezer refrigerator, providing the aforementioned double space in one unit.

These larger appliances are geared toward those who love to cook and entertain in their kitchen. Over half the respondents in the Home Design Trends Survey noticed an increased popularity of high-end appliances and in the size of the pantry. Big refrigerator/freezers not only accommodate the stor-

age needed with bulk storage but also keep storage space close by, something consumers want when they're working in the kitchen, says Eckelcamp.

WELCOME TO MY WINE VAULT

Among the Coldwell Banker survey regarding high-end home amenities, just missing out on the Top 5 was an in-home wine cellar, which is appropriate because wine is pretty big in itself - in 2004, Americans drank more wine than any other alcoholic beverage, according to a Gallup survey. But while some imbibers may be happy storing a bottle in a cupboard or in an on-the-wall rack, some take it to more extremes with in-home cellars that will store anywhere from 30 to 500.

But for someone looking to make the transition from connoisseur to full-blown sommelier, another GE product, the Monogram Wine Vault, offers storage and inventory capabili-

ties not found in under-the-counter models. It stores nearly 1,100 bottles and features a pre-programmed, electronic inventory system with touch-screen, bar code scanner and label printer. It's truly for the ultimate collector who is interested in storing, protecting and carefully managing his - literally - liquid assets, says Eckelcamp.

BIG DREAMS

The big trend - like any in home design - is not limited to a certain product or style. It's all about taking your own interests and style and making them work for yourself. The only limit, really, is the ceiling. And while you may be living small on the road, you can still live big inside.

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Sleep will be at a minimum, but finances don't have to be. Decorating for your new arrival without going into debt is easier than you think.

BY SALLY FARHAT
CTW Features

Congratulations – you're going to be a new parent. We're sure you, like everyone, is tempted to spend whatever it takes to achieve absolute cuteness when furnishing and decorating a nursery. But you don't have to spend a bundle. Here's how to make it cuddly and sweet – without breaking the bank.

Go back to the basics

You need a crib, something to change the baby on, and a rocking chair. That's about it.

Notice that we didn't say "changing table," because any flat surface – as long as you have a changing pad – is fine, as long as it's safe.

"Baby rooms are for sleeping and playing, not for looking like a museum," says Tristen Sullivan, owner and designer of Dust Bunnies, a line of blankets and baby accessories in Los Angeles.

Create a budget

"If you plan in advance, you won't be as prone to impulse buys," says Brette McWhorter Sember, author of "Your Practical Pregnancy Planner" (McGraw-Hill, 2005). "Plan out exactly what you need and how much you have to spend on it. Don't forget you have other expenses during pregnancy to budget for, including medical costs, childbirth classes, maternity clothes, parenting books, dia-



THE BABY'S ROOM ... ON A BUDGET

pers and more."

A good rule of thumb, Sullivan says, is not spending more than \$2,000.

Don't forget that you don't have to actually purchase everything.

Or if you do, get it used. "It's a waste to buy brand new furniture, since kids grow out of it so fast," says Krista Watterworth, host of HGTV's "Bad Bad Bath." She suggests heading to tag sales, garage sales and estate sales for gently used furniture that can be sanded and repainted with non-toxic paint.

Have fun with colors—paint

Painting is the cheapest way to decorate. Plus, if you use more fun colors, your child still might like it when he grows up. So what colors are "in?"

Since it's fall, check out olive green, dark grey and solid browns for boys. For girls, chocolate brown with light pink

is popular. Some designers urge parents to be bold with orange or bright green.

When you're painting, get creative. Stencil, use stripes, or paint a mural. "You can go hog wild," Watterworth says. "It's just paint."

Remember simple technology

There are cool new gadgets that actually can save you money – and energy – in the long run. For example, there's now a baby monitor that goes beyond just letting you hear baby's voice; you can talk back into it and he'll hear you. Don't buy so many toys, says Stephen Saint-Onge, home and style designer for Philips, New York. "People think you have to have that typical magazine spread room," he says. "But I tell them to step back and look at the basics."

Remember, it's a child's room

Kids can be messy. "I have a

cousin who spent \$10,000 for baby furniture and I thought that was silly," Sullivan says. "She will probably have her heart ripped out if something happens to it or a stain gets on the floor. Don't make a room so perfect that your child will eventually feel like they're walking on eggshells."

Choose practical flooring

If you buy wall-to-wall carpet, choose a tightly looped or textured pattern, says Debbie Wiener of Designing Solutions in Washington, D.C. They don't show as much wear. Layer it with small, colorful throw rugs near the changing table and bed.

Watterworth recommends Flor carpet tiles, which she says are an inexpensive way to cover the floor. "They are completely interchangeable so you can easily transform the room as tastes change, or if there's an unsightly spill in one area."

Let there be light

"Too often, lighting is an afterthought," Wiener says. "But think ahead to reading in bed together, and even late nights of homework."

She suggests installing recessed lighting over work surfaces, bookshelves and the bed, and putting more fixtures around the room's perimeter. And don't forget to put a lamp by the bed.

Don't buy too much

You'll be tempted to get 10 of everything, just in case. But you don't need to.

"You don't need too many sets of sheets," Sullivan says. "Two or three is really fine. The truth of the matter is, even though babies go through sheets quickly, you'll still have enough time to wash them and put them back on the bed."

Maximize space

The nursery typically is the smallest bedroom in your new home, so you need to take advantage of what you've got. Start with the unused vertical space. Install shelving right to the ceiling if your closet isn't adequate, but be sure to anchor it properly to the wall. Use the space above the changing table to place sturdy shelves with bins containing wipes, towels and diapers.

Buy basic storage units

Like your baby, infant accessories are small, so you need a way to keep track of these bits and pieces. For the smallest items, use a hanging organizer over the door made for shoes. Or try a CD hanger with clear pockets. These will hold the tiniest things, like nail clippers, and you can keep similar items in pockets together.

Keep a bin in the closet to hold outgrown clothing and toys



Caption

for donation or your next garage sale. Be sure to unpack – or return – your shower gifts right away. Most moms will tell you they have tons of baby clothing they never used.

Think about the future.

Don't forget that baby grows quickly, which is why it's a bad idea to overspend. Consider buying a crib that transforms into a twin-sized bed, for example. Don't place things too low –

baby will start walking around faster than you know it.

Most of all, Saint-Onge says, don't lose your personal style. "The nursery is an opportunity for both parents to put their slant on what a child's space should be. Don't look at what everyone else is doing. Just make sure you feel welcome in that space, and define who you are."

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THE ART OF *Accommodation*

BY PATRICIA V. RIVERA

Holiday hosting is all about making your guests feel comfortable. Be it a party for two or a fete for 20, you can arrange your home to welcome any crowd. Here's how to make it work.

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Joan Faison's dining room table only sits 10, though that's no indication of how many people she can accommodate for memorable holiday meals at her Charlotte, N.C., home.

In fact, with a little creativity Faison welcomes as many as 25 family members for formal sit-down dinners.

All it takes, says the interior design instructor at The Art Institute of Charlotte, is time to plan in advance. "Without a plan in place, the home will inevitably lose its charm. Between the holiday decorations and the extra seating for guests, the space will seem too crowded," she says.

Hosts can take various approaches depending on the number of guests expected. The easiest way to accommodate a large crowd calls for arranging a casual buffet with food options that allow people to eat, walk and talk. Chairs can be placed around the living room and dining room to allow people to sit but still mingle.

But during the holidays, a time of multi-generational bonding, hosts often prefer a more formal setting. Experts agree that in this case planning in advance is crucial. Guests should never be made to feel as though their presence was not expected. Chairs should be located and arranged in advance.

Transform that table



Flexible dining: Expand your seating capacity by placing a longer piece of plywood over an existing table.

A dinner party that requires just a little more seating space than what the dining table can provide is an easy fix, says Faison.

One of the most magnificently decorated tables she's seen involved the use of a large piece of plywood cut to size and placed over a standard dining table. Once draped, it crowned the entire room. New guests could hardly tell that it was not normally as large.

The board can be stored under the bed mattress when it's not in use, she says.

Those looking for a more hassle-free option can simply find a table of similar height. Once the elongated table is covered and decorated, the height variations will be diminished.

Besides, during the holidays folks just want to spend time

together. They understand that it involves some sacrifices, experts say.

If an extended table proves too long for the available space, move the table so that it's on a diagonal. Other pieces of furniture may need to be stored in the garage or basement.

Faison says that if space is tight she prefers to serve the meal rather than set up a buffet table. She asks her nieces and nephew to help carry the dishes back and forth. They enjoy their special role in the family event.

Small round tables with beverages or extra serving dishes could go in the open corners of the dining room, thus creating additional room in the main table.

Faison suggests seating two people on each end of a large table. Then create a hierarchy by

placing two larger matching chairs directly across from each other in the center of the table for the hosts.

A low and colorful centerpiece can help create a sophisticated holiday look as can miniature cypress topiaries, candles and ribbons around chairs.

Move the furniture

Larger dinner parties inevitably need more planning. Kathy Passarette, a decorator in Mount Sinai, N.Y., keeps it simple by renting round tables, matching chairs and tablecloths instead of hunting these down around the house and neighborhood.

Square card tables are too flimsy, she says. It's also difficult finding tablecloths of that size.

She can rent tables in her area for \$10 and chairs for \$2 or \$3

each. Before she selects linen, she tries to think of a theme or color palette.

Traditional holiday colors - green, red, gold and white - are often expected and preferred by hosts and guests alike.

Sometimes, she even relies solely on the rented goods. She'll push her rectangular table and use it serve the buffet.

"This way it's more cohesive and elegant. The china is all the same, the linen is all the same and all the tables fit properly," she says.

Carole Talbott, a design consultant from Port Salerno, Fla., takes another approach. Instead of using matching linen, she gives each of her tables a different theme.

"You can almost take it to the adventure level and make the smaller tables even prettier," she says. "That way everyone is happy."

Extend the welcome

Faison says it's important that no guest feels relegated to less important space. Assigned seating, she notes, help to manage large crowds. Guests with greater space needs or more limited mobility require special accommodations.

"The use of place cards gives me control to make sure everyone is comfortable," she says.

For special gathering she likes to buy trinkets to place on each chair, such as memorabilia from local museum stores or even holiday pins. "The gift becomes part of the décor, part of the theme," she says.

One year, she gave a table of guests ballroom masks. "They had a great time putting them on. The conversation at the table never stopped," she says. "That's the type of dinner party you want people to remember."

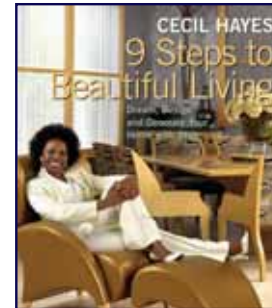
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Book Learning

Tips, Shortcuts & How-to's for Homebodies



The Barefoot Home: Dressed-Down Design for Casual Living by Marc Vassallo
(Taunton, 2006) \$30.00



Martha Stewart's Homekeeping Handbook: The Essential Guide to Caring for Everything in Your Home by HYPERLINK
"http://www.randomhouse.com/crown/clarksonpotter/catalog/results.pperl?authorid=29883" Martha Stewart (Clarkson Potter, 2006) \$45



Cecil Hayes 9 Steps to Beautiful Living: Dream, Design, and Decorate Your Home with Style by Cecil Hayes
(Watson-Guptill, 2006) \$30



Brilliant Ideas for Using Vintage Fabrics in Your Home by Cath Kidston
(Chronicle Books, 2006) \$24.95



Embellish Your Home by Dena Fishbein
(Sterling/Chapelle, 2006) \$14.95

Oh Sew Easy Duvet Covers & Curtains: 15 Projects for Stylish Living by Jean Wells
(C&T Publishing, 2006) \$19.95



Children's Rooms: Practical Design Solutions for Ages 0-10 by Joanna Copestick
(Conran, 2006) \$19.95

Weekend Bathroom Makeovers: Illustrated Techniques & Stylish Solutions from the Hit DIY Show Bathroom Renovations by Amy Matthews, Bridget Biscotti Bradle
(Lark Books, 2006) \$17.95

New Fireplace Design by Daab
(Daab, 2006) \$18.95

Secrets of a Style Diva: A Get-Inspired Guide to Your Creative Side by Susie Coelho
(Cool Springs Press, 2006) \$24.99

Picture This! Ideas to Create Unique Wall Art by Jo Rigg (New Holland, 2006) \$24.95

Flea Market Style by Emily Chalmers
(Ryland Peters & Small Ltd., 2005) \$27.50

Designed to Order: Stylish Solutions to Organize Your Home (House Beautiful) by C. J. Petersen (Hearst, 2006) \$24.95

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How to be Hollywood-Hip

You, too, can live like a Hollywood mogul. All it takes is your own home, says Sue Hostetler, an author and editor whose work as photojournalist took her to Rwanda, Chechnya, Azerbaijan, Guatemala, and Cuba. "Hip Hollywood Homes (Clarkson Potter, 2006) takes a look inside the homes of 21 Hollywood trendsetters and how they live.

It turns out that there's no big secret to Hollywood hipness:

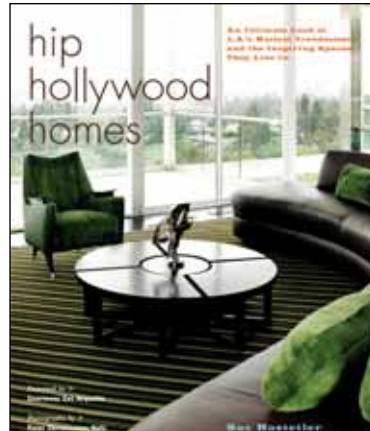
"The reason their homes are so beautiful is because they reflect what they're passionate about," says Hostetler of the designers, stylists, filmmakers

and entrepreneurs she met.

Elizabeth Stewart, style director for New York Times Magazine, converted Indian and Moroccan fabrics collected during her travels into wall hangings in one of her rooms. Ryan Murphy, creator of the TV show "nip/tuck," uses pieces by mid-century designers to give his 1948-built home a more organic feel.

"The one thing that all of these people did that anybody can take unto themselves is they were very loyal and authentic to whatever the authentic design of their home," Hostetler says.

Her advice to a redecorating, would-be mogul: Stay true to



the era, architecture and design of your home, whether it's in Beverly Hills or Butte. Research your area and region of the country to figure out what was popular at that period of time. The true Hollywood hipsters, it turns out, are respectful and felicitous when it comes to matters of design. "Nobody filled an utterly contemporary glass-and-steel house with French 1800s furniture," she says.

The current hot trend in Hollywood, says Hostetler, is art, especially painting and photography. Murphy's prized portrait is late-1970s painting of actress Candice Bergen that he found at an auction. A cash-strapped mini-mogul might consider investing in greetings cards with great photos on them, framed in a cool way.

"What you're passionate about, what you love to see, this can translate to anything in your home," she says. - Timothy R. Schulte



Old-school organic: Ryan Murphy, creator of the hit show "nip/tuck," uses a vintage Edward Fields rug and Baker Furniture night tables, both circa 1960, to stay true to his mid-century home.

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How to Prep Any Room for a Brand-New Hue

There are two types of painting projects: big ones and bigger ones.

Either way, painting doesn't have to be a hassle.

With the right knowledge and tools, do-it-yourselfers can tackle a few rooms or even the entire interior of a house.

PINPOINT THE PROJECT

Re-painting can add or subdue color, create an intimate space (dark colors) or one that feels open and free (light colors). It all depends on the mood and effect you desire.

Examine the walls before painting in case any work needs done.

"The majority of homes are drywall or plaster," says Steve Revnew, a spokesperson for Sherwin-Williams. "If it's an older home, you're going to find plaster; because of the age of those you might have to do a little repair."

Using a wide-blade putty knife, fill small dents, holes and irregularities in the walls with spackling compound, a pre-mixed paste. Smooth the areas

with sandpaper once they're dry.

A PRIMER COAT

If you plan to make a big color change, a coat of primer paint tinted a shade of the final color will help reduce the number of coats of paint required for a good job. If the new shade is close to what's already on the wall, you probably don't need to prime, says Revnew, but if it's something dramatically different you'll want to. A gray primer will help the development of dark colors, Revnew says. Ask the staff at your paint or hardware store what's recommended for the paint you choose.

If you're using semi-gloss paint sand the walls to dull them a bit. If you're using a satin or flat paint, thoroughly clean your walls so the paint doesn't pick up any dirt or particles. Moisture-resistant and washable paints are smart buys for the kitchen and bathroom.

BRUSHES AND ROLLERS

When it comes to brushes and rollers, again, ask for guid-

ance from the paint pros at your store. Higher quality brushes and roller covers will be less likely to break or fray, which means less splatter, dripping and mess. Also, don't stint on drop cloths if you're not moving your furniture out. Disposable plastic ones can make the job even easier. If you're moving your furniture, purchase easy-move rollers to move the pieces without a lot of effort, says Revnew.

MASKING TAPE

Finally, use masking tape to protect trim and windows and you should be good to go. If you have trouble masking, hand maskers - just like dispensers used for packing tape - can simplify the task. Revnew says blue masking tape works really well because it sticks but doesn't adhere to the paint film.

Just like a painting, all that's needed to transform a room are the right tools and vision, which will come to life on a plaster or drywall canvas. - Timothy R. Schulte

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