



Suzanne Tucker of Tucker & Marks refurbished a formal living room and decorated it with shades of yellow, brown, and peach.

ALEXANDER GORLIN
ARCHITECT

"When you're trying to make a small space seem larger, clever use of mirrors helps do the job. Sir John Soane, the most fascinating architect of the late-Georgian era, used them to great effect in the breakfast room of his London house, now a museum."

RICHARD MISHAAN
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Ebonizing kitchen cabinets is very chic, particularly when combined with chrome-plated or stainless-steel hardware. Then I like painting the rest of the room pure white to create great contrast and a sense of modernity."

AMELIA T. HANDEGAN
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"To enliven a quiet room, use fabrics with varied textures and tones. Combine patterns of different scales to create a more layered look."

THE TRANSFORMERS

Today's top designers and architects reveal their chic, clever tips for renovating, from small jobs to total makeovers. INTERVIEWS BY MELISSA FELDMAN

WILLIAM SOFIELD
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Imagine all the surfaces of a room simply as reflectors of light and then choose paint values, tones, and colors that will accentuate or minimize differences. I often paint each surface a different color in order to achieve the right balance."

ROBERT COUTURIER
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER

"To soundproof a room, upholster the walls and use thick carpets. I also put Green Glue behind the drywall—it's a very effective noiseproofing compound."

SUZANNE TUCKER
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"The warm tones of butter-yellow are always flattering—to art, antiques, and us!"

LEE LEDBETTER
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER

"Paonazetto is my current favorite marble for baths because it has graining reminiscent of a Franz Kline painting. It's difficult to find the really beautiful slabs with a lot of contrast, but the hunt is worth the trouble."

SANDRA NUNNERLEY
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Rooms with high ceilings need generous baseboards. I have them made ten inches tall when necessary."

STEVEN GAMBREL
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Hardware is something you touch every day, so purchase the best. My splurge for the bath is the Henry line of faucets and hooks by Waterworks."

TONY INGRAO
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"A heated towel bar is one luxury that people often forget—it's a subtle but memorable upgrade."

PENNY DRUE BAIRD
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Polished nickel marries well with Carrara marble and other white stones, but brass and bronze can be a better fit with warm stones such as Botticino or limestone."

"When you're remodeling a house, installing larger windows can work wonders. It seems counterintuitive, but half the experience of living indoors is seeing the outdoors."

MARC APPLETON, ARCHITECT