



DECORATE

1,000 professional design ideas for every room in your home

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photographs by Debi Treloar

CASE STUDY

USING YOUR SPACE

Using your space well means making the most of your existing building and decorating it in keeping with the core components of walls, floors, and ceilings. If you have high ceilings, for instance, you immediately have more options for maximizing your space with a mezzanine or tall bespoke walls of storage. If you have a series of small rooms, you may want to open them out by knocking down a wall, or making a half-height room divider to create different areas in a single room, while improving the natural light.

Amy Neunsinger's industrial-style 1950s home in the Laurel Canyon area of Los Angeles has been massively extended in keeping with the original framework and includes hard edges such as concrete floors, exposed ceiling beams, bare metal-framed windows, and exposed air ducts.



ONE-SPACE LIVING The open-plan living and dining space capitalizes on large windows and a light-filled, high-ceilinged space. A statement chandelier, a painted and aged dining table mixed with steel dining chairs, and a careworn wall are an interesting combination, while the entire ground floor has a dark painted floor to unify the space.

“At night, it feels so cavernous and cozy when you’ve got candles lit and they pick up the texture of the wall. During the day, it is different completely. It can be everything from austere to decadent.”

Amy Neunsinger, photographer



“I think of the whole house as South of France meets industrial. I just love pure function. But then there’s the softer, female stuff that’s important to me too.”

Amy Neunsinger, photographer

Amy employed architect Juan-Felipe Goldstein to oversee the reconfiguring of the space from a modest 1950s house to a spacious and welcoming family home. The overall impression here is one of cool comfort. Many of the walls have been left untreated, with their natural brick and concrete patina providing a unique warmth and texture. During the renovation, Goldstein called up Amy and put in a plea that the walls were so attractive in their pared back state that she should consider leaving them as they were, which she did. They inspired the overall decoration of the house, and texture is now key throughout the extended home. You can see it on zinc tables, in painted rattan, and on animal-skin rugs and comfortable cotton slipcovers. Mixing all these different materials together creates a cohesive and surprising warmth given the lack of soft surfaces in the space.

INDUSTRIAL

CHIC In a hard-edged space, remember to soften the edges. Here a giant photographic print on canvas adds a natural seascape to an otherwise pure white wall, and a squashy, comfortable sofa plus African carved-wood tables from a Santa Monica flea market look inviting against the glossy gray concrete floor.

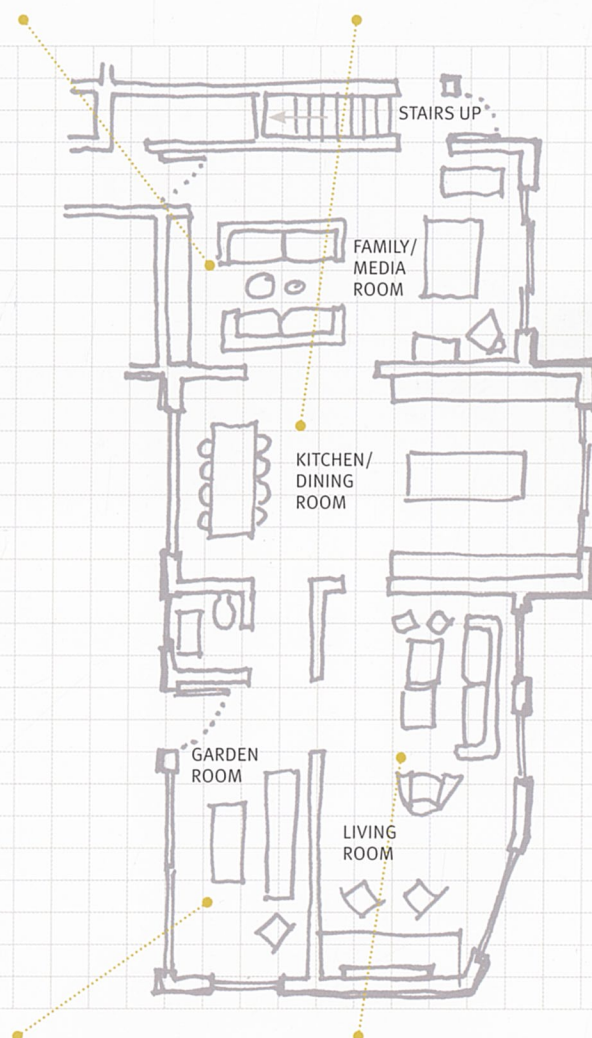




LIGHT AND BRIGHT *Left* White upholstery always looks great in bright white-on-white spaces where there are traces of dark colors and woods to create contrasts. Here an ethnic wooden console stops the seating area from becoming lost in whiteness.

The family room has plump, squishy sofas and two large round side tables with an ethnic vibe for a relaxed atmosphere.

An island layout in the kitchen gives maximum flexibility and frees up wall space for large windows.



A garden room brings the outdoors in so that even on rainy days you can still enjoy natural surroundings.

In the living room, white walls and furniture match in with the white ceiling rafters for a cool and airy but welcoming space.



COOK'S KITCHEN *Left* Custom-made cabinets slip effortlessly into the industrial space, where utility meets chic in the form of sleek stainless steel appliances and open shelving warmed up with vintage accessories.

CASE STUDY

COOK'S KITCHEN

A kitchen in which cooking is the main focus calls for a happy mix of function and creativity. More often than not a cook's kitchen includes some form of island or breakfast bar. Serious cooks spend a lot of time in this room, so they prefer to create a working space where friends and family can also gather round the food-preparation area to talk, help, or watch.

Amy Neunsinger's splendid Los Angeles kitchen showcases the best of vintage utility with a classic island layout that enables efficient movement throughout the space. Countertops are sleek marble, while at the heart of the space a stunning generous sink designed by Michael S. Smith for Kallista is both a focal point and functional. The cooking and food-preparation activity can be flexible thanks to the inclusion of two sinks. One is a focal point for the room and is at the head of the island unit.

UTILITY CHIC Industrial materials and a white-and-steel color theme create a glamorous, hardworking foodie work space, where exposed pipework and luxurious surfaces mingle well to create a smart utility vibe.



“I wanted that ‘old with the new’ here. I love that feeling of old materials and that mingling of the indoor and the outdoor too.”

Amy Neunsinger, photographer



FLOATING WALL A tall plinth forms a room divider and a wall that houses a custom-made basin and vanity unit. Behind the wall is a walk-in shower. When there is space to do so, false walls are a great idea for creating different zones of activity in bathrooms.



“The sleekness of the steel sink sitting on an old Burmese table gives you a sense of being in a foyer not a bathroom. I wanted the bathroom to have a sense of the past but read more modern.”

Vicente Wolf, designer

Basins *Choosing a basin is as much about choosing a bathroom style*

Basins are a good starting point when planning a bathroom. Gather together brochures and look at magazines and Web sites for ideas for different shapes and unusual materials.



If you are planning a bathroom on a tight budget, you can often save money by choosing a basic basin but splashing out on high-quality faucets. But if you are set on a particularly spectacular style or shape of basin that you think will make all the difference, then you can reverse the process and conserve more of your budget for that rather lovely basin or basin unit.

RETRO COASTAL *Above left* A steel industrial basin unit placed against a metal window frame and beside exposed pipework is softened by a glass cabinet displaying a collection of sea anemones and shells in Amy Neunsinger's Los Angeles home.



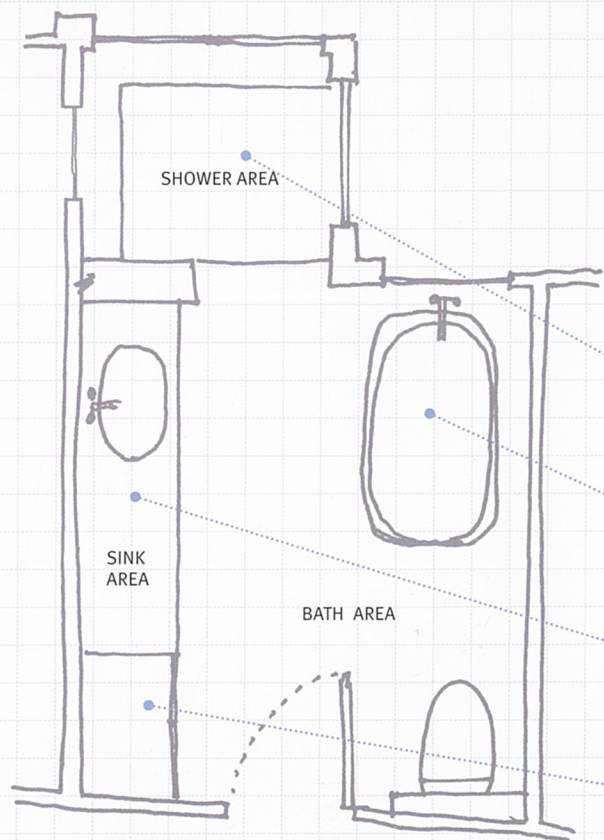
Before you make your choice think about who will use the bathroom. A tiny ceramic bowl may look spectacular but will irritate you if several people pass through the bathroom and leave puddles of water on your countertop. Avoid low-level basins if you have a bad back, while pairs of basins are a good idea if two people get ready for work at the same time.

CHILDREN'S BATHROOM *Above right* In Anita Kauschal's London house a pair of small basins are ranged at a lower than usual height in a children's bathroom that is compact but functional. When space is tight, look for small basins that will not look too large for the room.



STONEWASH

Mixing a vintage painted mirror with the smooth surfaces of tiling and limestone creates a welcoming basin area that is a perfect combination of the old and the new.



Amy Neunsinger's glamorous bathroom combines sleek lines with luxurious materials and a statement period piece. Dominating the space is a claw-foot Victorian bathtub that has been reconditioned, then painted a pale mushroom color to tone well with the limestone sink unit. On the walls of the sink area and in the shower wet room are two types of mother-of-pearl mosaic tiles that reflect natural light and provide a subtle shimmer in each of the two spaces. Effortless glamour that is not too hard to achieve.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

Above left A low-level reclaimed bathtub sits beneath a picture window. The painted concrete floor enhances light.

SHOWER SPACE

Opposite Frosted glass encloses the walk-in shower with its stylish showerhead and reflective walls.

- Frosted windows allow natural light to flood into the fully tiled shower room. A low-level tiled area is used for storage and as a seat.
- A reclaimed bath is a big feature in the room as you enter the bathroom.
- A purpose-built limestone slab sink incorporates single drawers and extends along one wall.
- Fabric storage boxes beneath the generous vanity surface offer access to toiletries.

CASE STUDY

LUXURY BATHROOM

Creating glamour in the bathroom is all about combining luxurious materials in an understated way to produce shimmering surfaces, inspiring textures, and a dash of surprise. It need not be expensive to reproduce an air of luxury. Keep the emphasis on one or two key areas such as the bathtub, the sink, one-off lighting, or the walls and floors to make instant glamour.

“My bathroom is filled with light, has a view of the canyons, and the shower is large enough that a shower curtain is not needed.

It is luxurious and sparkly and makes me happy each time I walk in.”

Amy Neunsinger, photographer