



**Cheap Tricks**  
Designers on the items they never spend big on—and where to source them **D5**

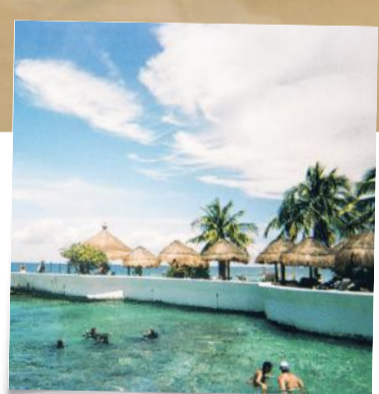
# OFF DUTY

**Curb Appeal**  
Dan Neil finds the Lucid Air irresistible, warts and all **D13**



## MILLENNIALS ROCK THE BOAT

As cruise lines navigate back to normal, they're finding a surprising new wave of customers: millennial and Gen Z travelers. These younger passengers have their own reasons for thinking the boating life is cool. We sent a reporter to discover what they are.



**SHORT SAIL** On a recent four-day trip from Tampa, Fla., to Cozumel, Mexico, the writer snapped photos of Gen Z and millennial shipmates on the Carnival Pride. From left: A guest lounges on deck; travelers on a shore visit; the onboard waterslide; a dip in the Caribbean Sea. Above: The author poses on Holland America Line's MS Rotterdam in New York Harbor.

By SARA BOSWORTH

**O**N EASTER MONDAY, atop the deck of a 963-foot cruise ship floating somewhere north of Cancún, Mexico, Macda Hailu and DeShun Gilchrist were planning their evening. On the agenda: dinner, a comedy show, then hitting the club. The couple was there to celebrate Mr. Gilchrist's 26th birthday. "It's my first cruise," said Ms. Hailu, a 24-year-old audi-

tor from Byron, Ga. "It's a good time. Lots of things to do." The trip had its surprises, however. "There's a lot of little kids. Sometimes I'll need to watch my language, I'll turn around and there's an 8-year-old behind me," she said. The pair was lured by a ceaseless flow of tropical drinks, an all-you-can-eat buffet, three pools, a casino and more—all included in one price. They are part of a generation exposed to cruises in the early 2000s, when companies increased their family-friendly programming. They had

now returned on their own dime. Among them: me. The difference was this was my first cruise, having grown up with a father as scared of deep water as my mother is of being confined to any one place for more than a few hours. With four days on board the Carnival Pride, sailing from Tampa to Cozumel and back, I was curious to see why millennials and Gen Zers were paying \$1,000 and up for week-long trips to a number of far-flung places (See "See-Worthy Spots," page D4).  
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F. MARTIN RAMIN/ THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (SEATED); SARA BOSWORTH/ THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; GETTY IMAGES (LIFE PRESERVED)

ANNIKA REED (WALLPAPER)

# DESIGN & DECORATING

BY NINA MOLINA

**E**VERYONE loves a bargain—and savvy designers know that when it comes to outfitting your home, even if you have a fortune, it doesn't always pay to spend one. The trick, according to high-end stylists, is to think strategically, pinching pennies on inexpensive yet well-designed utility pieces and flexing your budget on statement items that really wow. Need guidance? Here, six items pros won't pay a lot for.

## 1. Accessories

Decorating with knickknacks is "all about creating an eclectic mix," said Seattle interior designer Emily Ruff. Happily, opportunities to scout affordable smalls abound. To nail an engaging high-low vibe, the owner of Cohesively Curated Interiors recommends browsing local antique and thrift stores for

**In high-traffic spots like kitchens, choose stools that can be replaced, guilt-free, as they wear.**

bric-a-brac like terracotta vases and large bread bowls. Etsy is her go-to for vintage European pieces, and West Elm and Anthropologie reliably offer stylish new finds.

## 2. Sheets

Don't lose sleep over pricey linens, advises Gianpiero Gaglione. Instead of breaking the bank on bedding, the Los Angeles designer relies on durable and wallet-friendly Egyptian cotton sheets from Parachute. An even thriftier

# 'I Never Spend a Lot On...'

Designers disclose six stylish staples they won't pay a lot for—from cotton sheets to trendy tables—and where they source their low-cost scores. Plus: where they splurge



**FAVE SAVES** Design pros' thrifty alternatives, clockwise from top left: Karley Organic Cotton Shower Curtain, \$78, *Anthropologie.com*; Percalé Top Sheet Full/Queen in Clay, \$80, *Percalé.com*; AllModern Payton Bar & Counter Stool in Walnut, \$312, *Wayfair.com*; Iris Apfel Jingle Jungle Rug, from \$129, *Ruggable.com*; Gladom in Dark Gray-Beige, \$25, *Ikea.com*; Bettie Copper Throw Pillow With Feather-Down Insert 18 inches, \$50, *CB2.com*.

pick? Ashley Macuga of the San Carlos, Calif., firm Collected Interiors swears by Target's Threshold collection. "They wash beautifully and feel great after a long day."

**3. Bar Stools and Chairs** Rather than splurging on premium stools in high-traffic

spots like kitchens, New Orleans designer Hattie Collins advises choosing utilitarian pieces that can be replaced, guilt-free, as they wear. For surplus seating in dining rooms and patios, Carolina Irving, a designer living in Paris, scoops up director's chairs on Amazon and Way-

fair. "They look stylish and are super comfortable."

## 4. Pillows

To refresh a neutral room without breaking the budget—or entirely committing to a new style—principal designer Erin Coren of Curated Nest in Greenwich, Conn.,

leans heavily on playful pillows from Tonic Living and Burke Decor. "They can really change an overall scheme without a big investment," she said.

## 5. Side Tables

Accent tables are meant to be moved and swapped to suit



One item designers consistently shell out for? Our survey was illuminating: lighting. "No corner-cutting there," said Kevin Klein, a Los Angeles designer. "It really is the jewelry of a home," said Ms. Kah, who leans on retailers like Visual Comfort and Urban Electric for investment fixtures. Keren Richter, co-founder of White Arrow in New York City, agrees. "We go big on lighting, sourcing 1930s Swedish modernist pendants or unusual '70s Italian chandeliers," she said. "A dramatic [fixture] draws your attention and defines a space." Above: *Cyrus 16-inch Flush Mount, \$1,199, Visual-Comfort.com*

moods and trends, explains Los Angeles designer Linda Hayslett—so it doesn't pay to sink too much money into them. In particular, designer Bethany Adams of Louisville, Ky., praises IKEA's sleek Gladom model—a steal at \$25. "I can't tell you how many times its tray top has saved my expensive rug from certain ruin," she said.

## 6. Kids' Carpets

Cushioning is key in children's rooms, but their carpets take a beating, said Caitlin Kah, a Palm Beach, Fla., designer. Her solution: Forgoing pricey hand-knotted rugs for washable polypropylene versions from Dash and Albert or Ruggable. Another upside? Less regret when a child's favorite color inevitably changes.

## The Anything-But-Uptight Stripe

Let's get one thing straight: Rather than staid rows, today's in-demand wallcoverings feature loose, laissez-faire lines.

**FROM** utilitarian ticking to preppy pin-stripes, linear motifs never go out of fashion. But this season decorators are lining walls with a new type of stripe, one that's organic rather than rigid, undulating rather than uptight. Applied via wallpaper or hand-painted directly, the effect is a fuss-free and refreshing update on the sometimes-staid style. "There are no rules here and, if there were, these stripes would break them," said Chicago interior designer Donna Mondri, who recently employed an irregularly striped wallpaper in a client's foyer to distract from an unsightly door.

What's behind this painterly pivot? Some designers suggest it's a rebuff of the parade of "flawless" interiors found on social media. "Experience has taught us that [picture-perfect] spaces are unattainable...and a little boring," said British color expert and Chalk Paint creator Annie Sloan. "A wavy line still draws eyes up and emphasizes ceiling height—but in a way that's more approachable and warm than [a stripe] that's drawn with a ruler."

One striking new example of the form comes from the British bespoke wallpaper brand CommonRoom, which this spring introduced Silk Stripe, an update of a motif created by Arts and Crafts-era designer C.F.A. Voysey. Featur-



**LINE OF THE TIMES** CommonRoom's riff on an Arts and Crafts design.

ing watercolor columns of varying widths interspersed with floral flourishes, it is "distinctive" rather than perfect, said company director Sarah McClean.

### GENIUS STROKES

For painted lines that "wobble but don't wobble completely," Ms. Sloan recommends starting high on the wall and slowly dragging your brush downward.

For a collection with retailer Lulu and Georgia, Grand Rapids, Mich., designer Sarah Sherman Samuel created a striped wallcovering that reveals in "the texture and inconsistencies in the line weight," she said, which yields more personality than a flat pinstripe ever could. Installed in a child's bedroom, the motif was a simple yet classic way to bring character to a client's minimalist new build, she explained.

Others prefer to hand paint their dis-

orderly stripes. "Brushes inherently create uneven color and density—and that's exactly the goal," said British artist and designer Russell Loughlan. On the bedroom walls of a house on the Kent coastline, he recently applied columns of cerulean and sage with soft edges that seem to undulate in the sun—much like the sea outside. Said the self-proclaimed stripe fetishist, "Imperfections are part of the charm."

—Allison Duncan



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