MYDOMAINE

9 Interior Design Tricks to Make Your Home Look More Sophisticated

DESIGN: **LIZ CAAN**, PHOTO: ERIC ROTH

If you're wondering what makes a room feel sophisticated and you've been poring over Pinterest in pursuit of an answer, feel free to pause your pinning because we've got some expert advice for you. Let us just say that a home doesn't have to be huge or filled with expensive furniture to look sophisticated. In fact, some of the most stylish spaces we've seen happen to be tiny, budget-friendly studio apartments. So if you're looking to add some poise to your pad, but don't really know where to start, consider this your interior designer-approved cheat sheet. We chatted with Liz Caan, who spilled all of her trade secrets on how to up the elegance factor in any space and on any budget.

Meet the Expert

Liz Caan is an interior designer based in Newton, Massachusetts. She's been decorating homes all over the country since 2005.

Replace Fluorescent Lightbulbs

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Unflattering light not only casts a harsh sheen on you and your guests, but it also makes your décor look less than stellar. "When homes have fluorescent bulbs or LED light at 4,000k (kelvins), you feel like you are in a bug zapper or on an operating table," Liz offers.

Eliminate Clutter

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Too much stuff can make your space feel cluttered and effectively cheapen the overall look of your home. Take some time—say, 10 minutes per week—to straighten up the areas that get the most crowded. We suggest taking a look at your coffee tables, kitchen counters, entry consoles, and workspaces, if you're looking for a place to start.

Get Rid of Vertical Blinds

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Particularly in rentals, it can be difficult to avoid vertical blinds. While they are functional, they aren't very pretty. "Go for a shutter, a roman shade, or even drapes," Liz instructs. They all make for a more beautiful solution to the bright sun and nosy neighbors.