

feature

Interior intel

THIS SPRING, DON'T JUST CLEAN — MIX THINGS UP
MAJORLY WITH A COMPLETE REDESIGN, USING
TIPS FROM 3 LOCAL DESIGN EXPERTS BY AMBER GIBSON

TRY A WHITE BED

"Hotels have embraced white beds for the last 15 years, pioneered by Westin. At home, everyone seems to have a colored comforter on top of the bed, but if you want to make [the space] feel cleaner or more open, the white-bed concept works really well."

COMBINE SEATING AND DESK SPACE

"You don't need a formal desk in the bedroom. If you have a comfortable sofa, loveseat or chaise and a moveable table you can put your device on, that can be really helpful. You're probably carrying laptops and tablets up to the bedroom, so a flexible horizontal surface to work on is comfortable and space efficient."

ADD FURNITURE TO THE FOOT OF THE BED

"It's a great way to personalize the space. We used a bench with tan leather strapping at The Godfrey, to contrast with the white linens. It's a great luggage rack or a place to sit down and tie your shoes or take a breather. In your house, the end of the bed can be a little messy looking — [a piece of furniture] creates a more tailored look."

THE BEDROOM

The Gettys Group Senior Design Director Chris McDonough led the team responsible for the sleek minimalist design of the guest rooms at The Godfrey Hotel Chicago (127 W. Huron, pictured). Amid the busy River North neighborhood, not to mention the hotel's hopping rooftop bar, McDonough wanted the rooms to be a quiet haven for guests. Here are his tips for making your bedroom at home a sophisticated yet serene sanctuary. 55 W. Upper Wacker; [Gettys.com](#)



TRY THESE SPLASH PICKS

Luxury striped comforter: Fieldcrest, \$99.99-\$119.99, Target locations citywide; [Target.com](#)

Lucite bench: Haziza, \$1,100, Vern + Vera, 5856 N. Broadway; [Vernandvera.com](#)



THE LIVING ROOM

Designer Eva Quateman curated the living room for the Merchandise Mart's DreamHome this year, and has been nominated as the Design Center at the Merchandise Mart's Designer of the Year the past two years. She recommends collecting special pieces over time to create a one-of-a-kind space that showcases your personality. Check out the DreamHome for more inspiration when it opens April 17 at 222 W. Merchandise Mart. 220 W. Huron; Evaquateman.com

Try green as a new chic color: "I started obsessing over a green, black and ivory Chinese toile fabric a year ago. I'd been saving it in the office and it [became] the starting point for my DreamHome room: upholstered shimmered walls in green, and softer midcentury furniture. I really love emerald

greens and citron, but not together since they clash — you could do citron and avocado, but not citron and emerald."

Add a personal touch: "For my daughter's apartment in New York, we bought fabric and made [our own] pillows. They make everything look so much newer and personalized. If you're not crafty, there's stuff on Etsy [Etsy.com], too, so get something that's totally special."

Antique shop for centerpieces: "I do a lot of antique shopping in Connecticut; there's a big antique center there [with] thousands of dealers from New York. [Locally], The Find [9 Highwood, Highwood] is great for little tabletop stuff, [and] I'll go to the Chicago Botanic Garden [1000 Lake Cook, Glencoe], too."



A residential living room designed by Eva Quateman



TRY THESE SPLASH PICKS

Pillow covers: Reed Feather Straw, starting at \$15; Etsy.com

Arsenic No. 214 paint: \$32.50/750 mL, Farrow & Ball, 222 W. Merchandise Mart; Us.farrow-ball.com



Oak + Char



THE DINING ROOM

Jordan and Karen Mozer — along with architect Jeff Carlross and the rest of their design team — are the business-and-life partners behind the interior of Oak + Char (217 W. Huron), the modern-Midwestern restaurant from the team that opened Untitled. The Mozers balanced rustic elements like masculine brick,

concrete and charred timbers with more feminine draped chandeliers and lamp "skirts." Here are their tips to creating a dining room that is comfortable, warm and versatile. 320 N. Laflin; Mozers.com

Get a durable table for everyday use: "A residential table size and shape should be configured to be comfortable for two or 12. Flank a nearby sideboard with chairs for more seating when needed. The tables at Oak + Char are cut from old growth white oak felled in a thunderstorm. They are natural, casual, warm and have a wonderful grain — the definition of durability. They'll develop a pleasing patina over time instead of maintenance problems. Wood veneers may show corner damage over time, while stained

wood will show scratches."

Don't buy chairs based on photos: "Before buying a chair, invest time to sit in it for a half hour or more. Find a chair that's comfortable and supportive. Think about what the chair looks like from the back and how it will work with the table."

Use lighting to change the mood: "At Oak + Char, you get natural light from the windows at lunchtime and, in the evening, dimmers/rheostats allow the team to adjust the lighting to look brighter and more upbeat or softer and more mysterious and sexy. We use bright lights on the tables to highlight the food and guests' faces, while soft ambient light fills the room from our custom-designed pendant lamps."



TRY THESE SPLASH PICKS

One-light lamp: Trans Globe Imports, \$49.80, Idlewood Electric, 114 Skokie Valley, Highland Park; Idlewoodelectric.com

Dakota 77-inch dining table: \$1,499, Crate & Barrel, 646 N. Michigan; Crateandbarrel.com

