

# cool changes

Update any space easily with these designer tips – and fresh products from New England companies. No contractor required.

By Christie Matheson



**"LIGHT COLORS ON THE FLOOR CAN MAKE A ROOM FEEL MORE SPACIOUS, MAKE FURNITURE FEEL LIGHTER, AND HELP REFLECT LIGHT BACK UP,"** O'BRIEN SAYS. **"BUT PEOPLE ARE OFTEN AFRAID OF DIRT. TRY A WASHABLE INDOOR-OUTDOOR RUG LIKE A MAGDALENA YORK STRIPED RUG (BELOW) – IT HAS A BEAUTIFUL FLAT-WEAVE CONSTRUCTION AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STAIN."** *Magdalena York striped rug, starting at \$19 per square foot at Michelle Willey, 8 Union Park Street, Boston, 617-424-6700, michellewilley.com*

**"STRIKING WALL ART HAS THE POWER TO INVIGORATE AN INTERIOR, TAKING IT FROM DULL TO DYNAMIC,"** SAYS KELLY TAYLOR OF KELLY TAYLOR INTERIOR DESIGN IN PROVIDENCE. **"THE KEY TO ADDING ART IS TO CREATE LAYERED FOCAL POINTS AND VARIED VISUAL STIMULATION. AS YOUR EYE MOVES THROUGH A SERIES OF ROOMS OR WALLS, MIX UP THE MEDIA. BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS CAN GIVE WAY TO SUBTLE WATERCOLORS UNTIL THE EYE REACHES ONE LARGE, COMMANDING TEXTURAL PIECE."** *Allegheny River, NY+PA by Sand T Kalloch, \$3,400 through CasaDesign Boston, 460 Harrison Avenue, Boston, 617-654-2974, casadesign-boston.com*

**"OCCASIONAL FURNITURE – A WOODEN CHAIR, SIDE TABLE, OR BENCH – IN A BRIGHT COLOR IS A GREAT WAY TO INTRODUCE AN UNEXPECTED JOLT OF ENERGY,"** SAYS KEVIN O'BRIEN OF OBRIEN DESIGN GROUP, BASED IN BOSTON AND PROVIDENCE. *Colt Lowback side chair, \$680 at O&G Studio, 30 Cutler Street, Suite 130, Warren, Rhode Island, 520-247-1820, oandgstudio.com*



CAN BE USED TO  
PACE VISUALLY,”  
IVS. “I LIKE TO HANG A  
PENDANTS AT DIFFER-  
ENTS TO BREAK UP THE  
RIZON AND CONCEAL  
S BEYOND.”

endant, \$250 at  
arce, 103 New-  
et, Boston,  
3388, simon-  
m



“PAINT IS THE TRIED AND TRUE  
TRANSFORMATIVE TOOL,” SAYS  
O’BRIEN. “FOR REALLY DRAMATIC  
CHANGES IN INTIMATE SPACES,  
TRY A DEEP TONE WITH A HIGH  
SHEEN LEVEL. CEILINGS AND  
FLOORS ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED  
AS PAINT OPPORTUNITIES AS  
WELL. A FEW COATS OF HIGH-  
GLOSS ENAMEL CAN BRING NEW  
LIFE TO WOOD FLOORS.”

*Quiet Home Paints, from  
\$41 per quart at Quiet Home  
Paints, 95 Market Street,  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
(by appointment), 603-493-  
2023, [quiethomepaints.com](http://quiethomepaints.com)*

“A BOLD RUG ADDED TO A NEU-  
TRAL PALETTE CAN REDEFINE THE  
ENTIRE ROOM,” SAYS TAYLOR. “IT  
DOESN’T HAVE TO BE LARGE OR  
EXTEND UNDER YOUR EXIST-  
ING FURNITURE. IF YOU HAVE A  
SIMPLE SISAL ALREADY, ADD A  
COLORFUL GRAPHIC 5-BY-8 RUG  
ON TOP.”

*Dash & Albert wool rug,  
from \$95 at Neatly Nested,  
373 West Broadway, South  
Boston, 609-923-4459,  
[neatlynesteddecor.com](http://neatlynesteddecor.com)*

**CHANGING THE  
SHADE ON AN  
EXISTING LAMP CAN  
COMPLETELY REVAMP  
THE LOOK, O’BRIEN  
SAYS. “MODERN FABRICS,  
TRIMS, OR A PAINTED  
FINISH CAN UPDATE EVEN A  
TRADITIONAL LAMP BASE. I LIKE  
A SHADE PAINTED A WARM OR  
BRIGHT COLOR ON THE INSIDE FOR  
A SUBTLE HINT OF A BOLD COLOR,  
OR WITH SILVER LEAF ON THE  
INSIDE FOR A REALLY SPARKLING  
DRAMATIC EFFECT.”**

*Dunes and Duchess gold-  
painted lampshade, \$160 at  
Hudson, 12 Union Park Street,  
Boston, 617-292-0900,  
[hudsonboston.com](http://hudsonboston.com)*

