

# THE LISTS ISSUE: DESIGN & DECORATING

## Bellboy Not Included

5 home-décor strategies to steal from boutique hotels—without hiring a team of architects or blowing your budget

BY SARAH KARNASIEWICZ

**NOW THAT HIGH-DESIGN** boutique hotels from Bangkok to Bangor have filled the gap between bleak roadside motels and four-star resorts, it's not uncommon for travelers to fantasize about checking into one and never leaving. "We've all looked around a fabulous hotel and thought: Wouldn't it be great to live like this?" said Sara Bliss, author of "Hotel Chic at Home" (*The Monacelli Press*). Her counsel: Inject escapism into your abode by borrowing small design tricks from the hotel pros. "These are things you can bring home," she said, "and they're much better than another tchotchke."



**▲ Pull Up a (Plush) Chair**  
At the cozy No. 131 in England's Cotswolds, decorator Georgie Pearman pulled insistently comfortable velvet wing chairs around rustic wood tables, encouraging diners to relax and linger. "Hotels want you to splurge on that extra drink," explained Ms. Bliss, "but the same desire applies at home: We all want friends and family to have a little more time together."

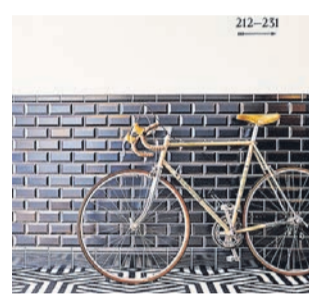


**▲ Get More From the Door**  
At La Mamounia, in Marrakesh, rather more than a boutique hotel, French designer Jacques Garcia sweetened a suite by opting for a set of carved, painted Moroccan double doors instead of a conventional single panel. "There's much more flair with two," said Ms. Bliss, who plans to cop the move by stenciling or wallpapering the inset panels in a set of doors she has at home.



**▲ Drape an Escape**  
Engineering a romantic retreat needn't be labor intensive. Meryanne Loum-Martin, owner and decorator of Jnane Tamsna, also in Marrakesh, draped a suzani tapestry, suspended via ceiling-mounted rods, to transform a sleeping corner into a canopy-draped sanctuary. "If you only have a mattress and frame," said Ms. Bliss, "you can easily make your bedroom more glamorous without having to invest in a [headboard]." Or a minibar.

**▲ Rock a Colorblock**  
Want to heighten the drama in an architecturally blah room without breaking out the power tools? Colorblocking walls with contrasting paint tones can do just that—as seen at the Hotel Henriette in Paris, where designer Vanessa Scoffier created a focal point and a faux headboard by painting a champion of a navy chevron on an otherwise inconsequential white wall. "The color stands out so much," said Ms. Bliss, "you don't even notice the simplicity of the space."



**▲ Make the Functional Aspirational**  
Hotels, even luxe ones, endure a lot of mundane wear and tear, which makes it essential to deploy practical materials—from concrete floors to ceramic tile—in chic ways. One urbane solution: In the scuff-prone entryway at the Hoxton in Amsterdam, traditional wainscoting was rejected in favor of a rich, glossy demi-wall of navy subway tile.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CHRIS TERRY; LA MAMOUNIA; HENVE GOLUZA; HOXTON HOTELS; INANC TEKUCIC

**Colorful Language**  
Can you match these 7 oddly inscrutable paint names with the shades they identify?

Answers: 1-C; 2-B; 3-A; 4-D; 5-E; 6-C; 7-F.

- 1 Online (Sherwin-Williams)
- 2 Venom (Behr)
- 3 Cheating Heart (Benjamin Moore)
- 4 Etiquette (Benjamin Moore)
- 5 Mole's Breath (Farrow & Ball)
- 6 East Egg (Ralph Lauren)
- 7 Dowager (Ralph Lauren)



### The Undeadly Dozen

12 tools in a vintage vampire-killer kit

This Halloween, crown your curio cabinet with this tool set, allegedly assembled and sold in the late 1800s to arm citizens against exsanguinating fiends. Includes:  
**1 Pistol.** With gunpowder flask (1.a) and percussion caps (1.b). Aim carefully—your target won't wait patiently while you reload a 19th-century firearm.  
**2 Silver bullets.** The famous bane of werewolves is allegedly no fun for vampires either.  
**3 Hypodermic needle.** To administer serum (see 4).  
**4 Professor Blomberg's New Serum.** A proprietary fluid concocted specifically to deter vam-

pires, containing garlic, honey, salt and holy water (no MSG!).  
**5 Brimstone.** Also known as sulfur, this element has no special powers but burns easily. Handy as a distraction or party trick.  
**6 Holy water.** Sacred to man, anathema to the undead. A burning splash should deter even the lustiest neck-muncher.  
**7 Powdered garlic.** The clove's pungent smell can temporarily repel mosquitoes; it's worth a try against their larger, more charming blood-sucking cousins.  
**8 Wooden hammer and stake.** To nail Dracula to a cof-

fin floor so he can't rise again.  
**9 Mirror.** Critical for positive I.D. Legend says vampires lack souls so cast no reflection.  
**10 Bullet mold.** For melting down the family sterling. Silver shot wasn't purveyed at 19th-century big-box stores.  
**11 Crucifix.** Nothing wobbles a vampire's knees like this powerful symbol.  
**12 Candle** (under crucifix). To light your way through the dank catacombs your wretched prey calls home. —Keith Blanchard  
*Antique Vampire-Slaying Kit, \$14,850 from M.S. Rau Antiques, www.rauantiques.com*

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