



Cheap Thrills: Where Top Designers Go to Score High Style on a Budget

Even high-end interior designers love a bargain. From online boutiques to secondhand scores, here's where they go to get great style for a steal

By Jennifer Kantor - December 19, 2013

Cool doesn't have to cost beaucoup bucks—or come from a fancy boutique. Here, top designers dish on where they go to find stylish home decor for less.

Home Accessories



HOME GOODS

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December 2013



When designers need something interesting and exciting to complete a room, they'll often raid the shelves at Home Goods, known for stocking stylish rugs, lamps, throw pillows and glassware. "Plates, bowls, vases and large blown glass pieces are always plentiful here and look fabulous displayed around the house," says HGTV's [Erinn Valencich](#). "Use them to bring in the accent color of your home and to add some texture and sparkle."

Up your chances of a score by perfecting your timing. Designer and savvy shopper [David Bromstad](#), also an HGTV staple, suggests hitting Home Goods (and other stores like it) first thing in the morning on weekdays, when brand-new items are put on the floor. "You have a chance to take a good look before the crowds come in," he says. And don't just shop your favorite location. "We have four Home Goods in the greater LA area, and each store is different," says Valencich. "Sometimes I'll hit up two in a day."

Where to Score: [Home Goods](#), [TJ Maxx](#), [Marshalls](#)

Bedding

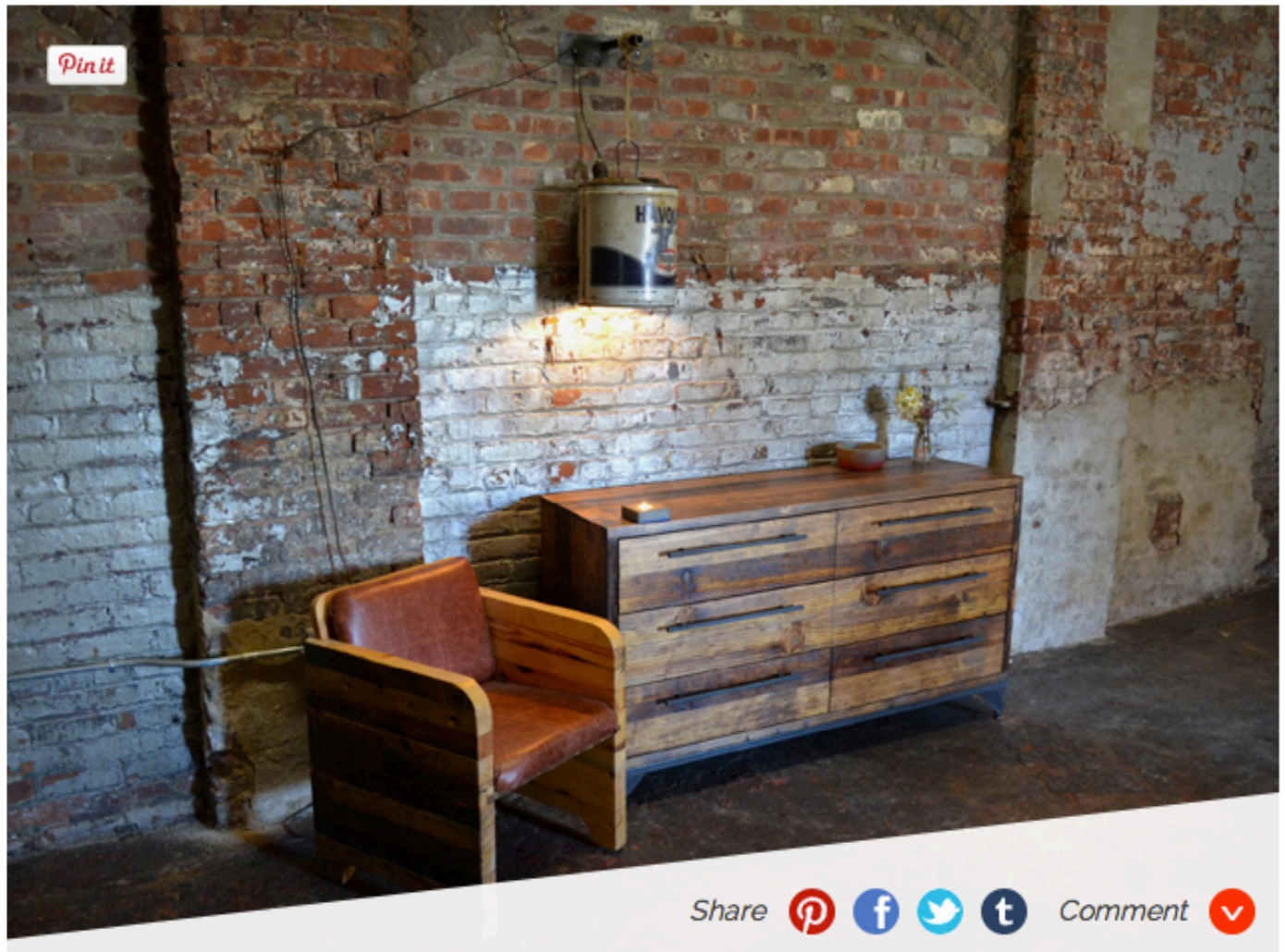


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Luxe linens at low prices are everywhere, if you know where to look and what to look for. [Bromstad](#) likes [Grandin Road's](#) stylish, affordable bedding, while [Zig Furniture](#) co-founder Cecilia Dupire shops for sheets at Century 21 and the [Frette](#) outlet. Thread count is important, but the type of cotton sheets are made of can be even more significant, says [Jennifer Convy](#), star of Fine Living's Mail Order Make Over. She suggests holding out for primo 100% Egyptian or pima/Supima cotton sheets that are bleached or lightly colored (coarse weaves are necessary to hold dark dye). "Bed Bath and Beyond has great sales on Egyptian cotton sateen. I've also bought 1000 thread count Egyptian cotton sheet sets for around \$100 at both Home Goods and at Tuesday Morning," says Convy, adding that similar sets can fetch up to \$500 full price. In other words, don't just take home the first pretty sheet set you see.

One-of-a-Kind Pieces or Vintage Items



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"I have found some of my favorite items at flea markets and estate sales for clients and myself," says [Amanda LeBlanc](#), professional organizer and Style Network star. Bromstad is also a fan. "It's amazing what you can find," he says, adding that the key to successful flea-ing is to look at what an item could be, rather than what it is. "For example, a mid-century side table that looks beat-up and old can be revived easily with a nice coat of paint. Or, you can reupholster a hidden treasure and create a spectacular gem," he says. "Finding vintage pieces and refinishing them is always fun."

Looking for steal? Go for a stroll, suggests [Atwood](#). "Walk around on garbage nights and you'll find amazing pieces. Keep your eyes open! Go earlier before the good stuff gets swiped up."

Where to Score: [eBay](#), [Freecycle](#), [Craigslist](#), [Etsy](#), [scoutmob](#)