



TRICK OF THE TRADE

“Take kitchen cabinets all the way up to the ceiling. Anyone who cooks has platters or cake plates you don’t use every day—storage up there is great.”

How and what you paint can trick the eye, I guess.

People always say if you paint a ceiling dark, you bring a ceiling down, but that’s not always true. If you have it contrast with the wall, it will make it feel higher. And it adds richness, too: It’s the biggest surface in the room, so having it be a little bit unexpected, they’ll suddenly be like, ‘Wow.’

What about hiding the electronics and TVs that run our lives these days?

So much ugliness. I’ve started remotely locating everything. I just do an AV closet, or if it’s something that’s local in the bedroom, I’ll run it to the closet in that room. No one’s doing DVDs anymore. A lot of times I’ll use Stealth speakers and put them in the wall, and they can be plastered over, and you can paint or wallpaper over them. You can put them in a weird place without it looking weird.

How do clients access it all, if it’s hidden?

Everything can be done by remote control and put onto your iPad or a little touchscreen. There’s more stuff, but it’s easier to condense into one location. Sometimes I’ll wall-mount a small iPad in the kitchen. I had one client who’s a big cook, so we put it near the range so she can pull up recipes while cooking, but also control other things in the house, or even answer the door. **k.w.**

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The Interior Designer

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What if you have that less-than-ideal space, the postwar apartment? In New York, everyone talks about “postwar” like it’s such a bad thing. But there are a lot of good things about a postwar apartment, and a lot of times the rooms in those apartments are very gracious. You’re battling against low ceilings.

What can you do about that? Proportion is always a big thing. It’s about having contrast. When you create contrast, you create depth. Keep some things lower, and some things higher. Everything in the room shouldn’t be the same height. I like to keep most of the furniture low, but when you have tall pieces, go really high.



Low sofa and big art create drama.