


THE BULLETIN

by SCHUMACHER





Expert Advice

THE HOUSE WHISPERER

DESIGNER **WINDSOR SMITH** IS ON THE CUTTING-EDGE OF LIVEABLE LUXURY, AND SHE'S KNOWN FOR CREATING SUBLIMELY CHIC, SUPREMELY COMFORTABLE SPACES THAT BLEND THE HIGH ART OF DECORATION WITH THE NITTY GRITTY OF EVERYDAY LIFE (JUST ASK AVID FANS SUCH AS GWYNETH PALTROW). HERE, SHE LETS US IN ON SOME OF THE **KEY TAKEAWAYS** FROM ONE OF HER LATEST KNOCKOUT HOMES.

WRITTEN BY MARIO LÓPEZ-CORDERO

Expert Advice

"I THINK OF MYSELF MORE AS A SOCIOLOGIST THAN A DESIGNER," SAYS WINDSOR SMITH, WHOSE LOFTY, LIGHT-FLOODED SPACES FOSTER SOCIAL INTERACTION AND EXALT AN EXCEPTIONAL, MODERN BEAUTY. HERE, SHE SHARES **NINE GENIUS IDEAS** FROM A RECENT PROJECT.

1 THE UNCONVENTIONAL DINING TABLE

Rather than one long table for the eat-in kitchen, Smith opted for two identical marble-topped versions pushed together. "The effect is a little more unbuttoned," she explains, "just right for a space meant to be more relaxed than a traditional dining room."

2 NEW FLOORS THAT LOOK ANTIQUE

Smith loves pale wood floors for their ethereal, handcrafted quality, but when fresh from the warehouse they can smack of new construction. Her solution? Use different lots for subtle variations in the planks, then mix them together to install.

3 GROUNDING ELEMENTS

To tame polished-nickel and stainless-steel finishes, Smith opted out of plaster walls in favor of earthy and humble whitewashed brick above the ovens and range. "It brings much-needed texture and tethers all the shiny surfaces."

4 FLOORING THAT SETS THE MOOD

Smith deployed different flooring patterns to subtly cue each room's purpose: wide vertical planks for the utilitarian, workhorse parts of the kitchen, and a more delicate herringbone design for the spaces meant for gatherings and repose.

5 A SECRET STORAGE STASH IN PLAIN SIGHT

What looks like an ordinary mirror in a sitting area actually conceals what Smith calls a "vice cabinet," and it unlocks via smartphone app. "It's a place to put things you might not necessarily want everyone to see but still keep them super-accessible."

6 EVERYDAY OBJECTS AS ART

For an expansive living-room wall, Smith wanted art to counter the furniture's low angularity. She strung woven throws onto a curtain rod, *et voilà*: an instant contemporary piece. "When the doors are open, the edges wave gently in the breeze. It's hypnotic."

7 INTERIOR WINDOWS

Throughout the house, Smith installed glass doors and transom windows where there would typically be walls to allow natural light to flood in. "Great design plays with the way light changes at different times of day and affects the feel of a room."

8 SUBTLE DISPLAY SHELVES

To layer in objets without the visual heaviness of conventional shelves, Smith installed sleek razor-thin units, part of her own Opus collection, then painted them a misty grey. "They feel like they're floating."

9 CUPBOARDS INSTEAD OF CLOSETS

Smith is intentional about closet scale and placement. "Walk-ins are the scariest places on earth," she says. "You feel the need to fill them, and then never know what you have." Old-fashioned-style cupboards make possessions accessible, and cocoon a bed so that "you feel like you're being tucked in."

