

# DESIGN & DÉCOR

## The Home Improvement Issue

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- Get Your Home Ready For Spring
- DIY Décor



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# Impressionable Design



Safavieh set the stage at the Ritz-Carlton property in North Hill.  
(Photos courtesy of Safavieh)

## Safavieh's home staging service elevates every space

BY CYNDI ZAWESKI

czaweski@antonmediagroup.com

*Home staging makes a statement. It is effective because it maximizes a property's potential while minimizing its drawbacks. It is all about making the best first impression to attract qualified buyers. Signing up for home staging design services can make all the difference in the time it takes to sell your home. According to the National Association of Realtors, 40 percent of buyers' agents cited that home staging had an effect on most buyers' view of the home.*

"Staging makes the home feel warm," said Michael Yaraghi, owner and president of Safavieh, a home furnishings brand with 12 locations in the tristate area. "The success rate realtors have when a home is staged is unbelievable."

The designers at Safavieh recently partnered with RXR Realty, developer of the Ritz-Carlton property in North Hills, to create three distinctive penthouse designs that would entice potential homeowners. The process starts from the ground up, Yaraghi explained.

"The first thing we do is select a color palette and measure the room for furnishings," he said. "It starts from the floor up, first the rug, then the furniture and then, we accessorize it."

Designer Keith Murphy used the proverbial all-white color scheme to evoke the glamour of Old Hollywood in one of the suites. Along with white upholstery, rugs, drapes and cabinets, the scheme also includes plenty of burnished gold, plus silver, transparent crystal, dark brown floors, dark

gray marble and apple green in the kitchen.

In a second suite at the Ritz-Carlton Residences, designer Karin Krinsky used blue as an accent color amid billows of silver, gray and white, creating serene spaces that beckon one to relax. The dining area is a star of this stage, with its long cascading drapes and chairs upholstered in the strongest saturated blue velvet, punctuated by silver nail-head trim. A shimmering bar cart nearby, this is the perfect spot for evening entertaining. The other rooms in this suite suggest Art Deco—for example, the graphic fire screen in the living room and a Machinist style of the end table.

Last but not least, Safavieh designers Joe Murphy and Iris Carias collaborated to create a space of understated luxury. Neutral tones and unpatterned upholstery create the muted backdrop. In the living room, neat geometric patterns in floor-to-ceiling drapes and rugs add subtle visual interest, as do hand-thrown pots and contemporary prints. The

study, outfitted in gleaming nickel and glass, might be the spot to do serious work—or to kick back with a novel, as sunlight filters through sheer drapes and falls on the mellowed silk rug. In the master bedroom, a tailored velvet-covered bed and architectural chests project a pleasing solidity, and warm gold tones seem to guarantee restful slumbers.

New homeowners are able to customize their spaces with the help of a Safavieh interior design consultant. Safavieh, which recently opened two new stores in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan and in

Norwalk, offers complimentary design consultations for customers to help them visualize their space before ongoing the transformation. The company's enhanced digital rendering system even allows clients to visualize each room in 3D in real time. With its fully stocked warehouse located in Port Washington, the whole process can be completed in no more than three-days time.

"We help people start from scratch," Yaraghi said. "We will show you before you start."

For more information on Safavieh, visit [www.safaviehome.com](http://www.safaviehome.com).



# Master Craftsman

*Bosch tools get the job done*

BY JENNIFER FAUCI

specialsections@antonmediagroup.com



*If you find yourself with the desire to be more of a master craftsman, you'll need the best of the best tools. Enter the Bosch CM10GD 10 Dual-Bevel Glide Miter Saw, an essential tool used for cutting and cross cutting material. We asked Corey Hinkel, product marketing manager at Bosch what makes this multi-use saw so special and why it's a must in your work space.*

**Q** What is this tool best used for?

**A** The Bosch CM10GD 10 Dual-Bevel Glide Miter Saw is great for cutting crown and base molding, cutting 4x4 material and for cross cutting, which is where the bevel action comes in.

**Q** It seems to be the perfect tool to gift a craftsman. What other products or equipment pair well with this saw?

**A** I would definitely recommend the T4B Miter Saw Stand, 12"

blades for replacement, a 4100XC-10 Table Saw and GOP55-36C2 Oscillating Tool.

**Q** For those who enjoy woodworking, why should this saw be added to their workshop?

**A** The Axial-Glide system provides key benefits over traditional sliding rail miter saw systems. There is zero clearance behind the saw, which saves up to 12 on a work table or project site, a necessity when space is precious. The 12-sealed ball bearings make for smooth travel for the life of the tool

as well as durable cast aluminum upper arm guides for precision travel. The Glide Movement Adjustment allows users to set the glide to desired smoothness, too.

**Q** Bosch is known for quality tools. What are some key features to this miter saw?

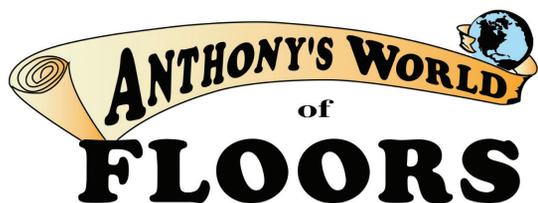
**A** What's beneficial to this piece is the capacity for all compound miter saw applications. In terms of safety, nothing compares to the up-front controls—all adjustments made from the front of the machine keeping the user safe and away from the blade—and a Patented Squarelock quick-release, high precision design, which aligns the fence at 90 degrees to

the table every time. With integrated table extensions and 10 adjustable positive miter stops with a push-button override, it's the category best in 90 percent of dust collection with the vacuum attached.

**Q** Can you offer any pro tips on how to use this tool?

**A** One major advantage of the Bosch saw is the featured up-front bevel control, keeping the user's hands away from reaching behind the saw. With a one-year warranty out of the box, care and maintenance is simple.

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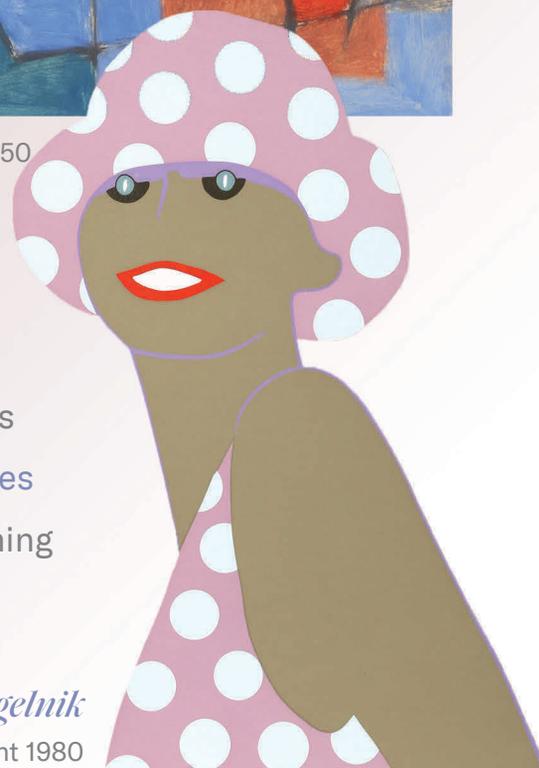
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# Work From Home

Calming colors help create a peaceful working space. (Photo courtesy of Jody Sokol Design)

## Expert tips for designing a home office

BY CYNDI ZAWESKI  
czaweski@antonmediagroup.com

*Working from home has its perks. In addition to typing away in the comfort of your pajamas, it lends itself to tackling tasks in a calmer setting than a traditional office environment. Creating a designated space to get into work mode while still at-home is the trick to maximizing efficiency, not to mention maintain work-life balance. Whether you are self-employed or telecommuting, interior designer Jody Sokol, of her eponymous-named Northport firm, shared her expert tips on defining a professional working space that separates your career from your personal life.*

### Choose a Dedicated Area

One common mistake people make when setting up a home office is that they don't always consider the rooms next to their home office and in many cases, the kids, pets and televisions can be a major distraction. It is essential to keep privacy in mind.

"Working from home is challenging on so many fronts so you need a space where your kids, pets and television don't distract you from your work," Sokol said. "If you can soundproof your space, even better." Don't overlook the layout, either. Sokol suggests asking yourself, "How does the room function for you?" And, "Is there enough room to move around comfortably without bumping into things?"

### Consider Light and Color

No fluorescent bulbs here. One of the most important things to take into account when setting up a home office is the lighting. "Natural is best, but if that is not possible, use good overhead lighting," Sokol said. Palette is also important for setting the tone. Think calming hues that soothe instead of bright and flashy colors. Some of the best colors for an office are off white, light blue, gray and pastel yellow, Sokol recommends.

### Adequate Storage and Equipment

Another common issue people face when designing a home office space is creating enough storage for their office supplies and files. The dedicated spot needs to comfortably fit the essentials—desk, chair and computer—plus, file cabinets and necessary accessories like a printer. Another consideration is where the equipment will fit in relation to the windows and outlets. Sokol suggests creating a printing station with paper, printer and ink. She also notes the importance of installing plenty of shelves and cubbies for supplies.

### Conceal Wires

The best way to conceal wires is to hide power strips and plugs if possible. "You probably will need to put a hole in your desk so you can run wires up and down and lace the wires through brackets to make them less visible," she said. "It's even better yet if you use a laptop and a wireless printer. But if you can't, consider using a twist tie to tie your wires together to keep them more manageable." Don't forget to label your cables, which will make it easier when you need to identify what's what. A cable sleeve keeps cables neater and shortening cables can also be helpful.



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# Do It Yourself

## Fun and stylish home projects

BY CYNDI ZAWESKI  
 czaweski@antonmediagroup.com

What could be more fun than buying home decor? Doing it yourself. There is something satisfying about completing a project that better your nest. Put a personal touch in your home decor with these easy do it yourself projects.



(Photos courtesy of Vicki Liston)

### Make Anything a Label or Sticker

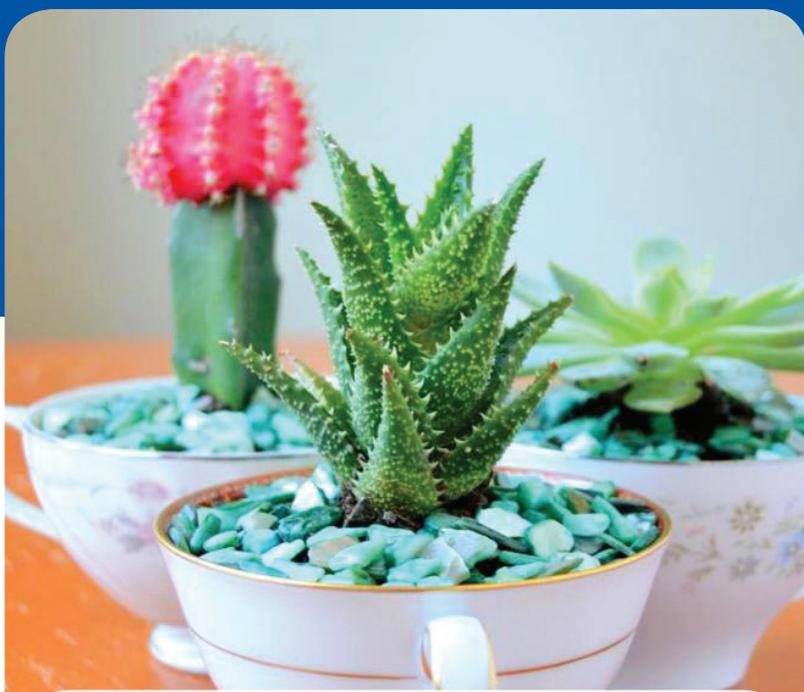
Typical label makers are as boring as you can get. So if you're looking for a fun way to get organize for spring, try this instead.

- Supplies:**  
 Computer  
 Printer  
 Paper  
 Clear shipping tape  
 Scissors  
 Glass with water  
 Spoon (or other hard implement)

**Directions:**  
 First, create (or find) your label or sticker design and print it out. Black and white or color, it works either way. Next, fully cover the printed design with shipping tape. If the design will fit within the width of the tape, great. If not, carefully line up the edges of the tape so they don't overlap. Use a spoon or other hard implement to rub over the top of the tape. Pressure is the key here, if you want the toner to transfer from the paper to the tape, push down hard and scratch back and forth along every bit of your design. Use the scissors to cut the design out into the exact shape and size of the label. Place your label-to-be in a mug or glass of water so that it's fully submerged and let it soak. Leave it alone for hours before it is ready.

Using your thumb, carefully roll the paper off the back of the tape. You'll get most of it off but keep going over any spots with remaining paper. Re-wet the tape if it starts drying. Continue until there are no more paper fibers and only the toner remains. Turn the tape sticky side up and allow the dry. As it dries, the stickiness comes back. Press your label firmly onto your item and work out any air bubbles underneath.

—Submitted by Vicki Liston, host on HomeTalk TV and "On TheFly...DIY"



### Teacup Planters

March is a great time to start practicing your green thumb. These adorable small succulent planters are sure to brighten up your space.

- Supplies:**  
 Teacups (you can find these for cheap at thrift stores or a dollar store)  
 Cacti or Succulents  
 Small pebbles or stones  
 Cactus soil

**Directions:**  
 Arrange your cacti or succulent in the teacup as you see fit. Fill the cup about ¾ of the way with the cactus soil. Place the pebbles or stones on top of the soil to completely cover any visible dirt. Water 1 to 2 times a week.

—Submitted by Fry-Wagner



(Photos courtesy of Fry-Wagner)

### Ombre Bunny Art

Bunnies are one of the most common creatures to represent the spring season. This cute little art board can even be displayed at your Easter gathering.

- Supplies:**  
 12 x 30 wood board (you can find these at your nearest hobby store)  
 White Pom Poms  
 Watercolor pencil (color of your choice)  
 Hot glue gun  
 Bunny template (Google your favorite one)  
 Acrylic paints of your choice. To complete the ombre look you will need three different shades of a similar color.

**Directions:**  
 Using your watercolor pencil, trace your stencil onto the wooden board. Fill in the bunnies with the acrylic paint and let dry. Using your hot glue gun, glue the white pom poms on the bums of all the bunnies and let dry.

—Submitted by Fry-Wagner

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# 6 Tips For Getting Your Home Ready For Spring

DIY diva Barbara Kavovit shares her expert advice

BY CYNDI ZAWESKI

czaweski@antonmediagroup.com

You may recognize Barbara Kavovit from *The Real Housewives of New York*, but she's no superficial reality television star. The New York native is the founder and CEO of Evergreen Construction, one of the few female-led construction companies in Manhattan, and the author of two home improvement books, *Room for Improvement* and *Invest in Your Nest*. It all began at the age of nine, when Kavovit's father handed her a hammer and enlisted her help constructing bunk beds.

"That experience really set the groundwork," the Bronx native said. "It was a self-esteem booster and it made me want to empower other women to feel secure and knowledge doing work in their homes."

Kavovit also recently debuted her first novel, *Heels of Steel*, giving readers an inside look into the cut-throat business of hardhats and hammers, based on her own experiences working on projects at Rockefeller Center, Carnegie Hall Towers and the Empire State Building.

"Between the 'Me Too' movement and 'Times Up,' I thought writing a novel talking about breaking through the glass ceiling without throwing people under the bus was an important topic," she said.

Following the success of the book, a sequel is already in the works, as well as a new television show. But, Kavovit has not lost sight of her first love. The do it yourself queen, whose been featured on *Today* and *Oprah Magazine*, shared her expert tips for refreshing your home for spring.

"Spring is a great time to accomplish things around the house," she said. "It is not too cold or too humid. You can open the windows and let in a new season."

## Give Your Deck a Face Lift

After a long winter a deck can look pretty dismal. Before summer temps



Barbara Kavovit is an author and CEO of Evergreen Construction. (Courtesy photo)

make it too hot (above 85 degrees). First wash or power wash your deck (you can rent a power-washer) or scrub it by hand. Use a long-handled bristle brush and warm soapy water. A cup of bleach added to two gallons of water removes mildew and moss. Rinse thoroughly using a high-pressure jet hose and let the deck dry completely. Pour deck stain in the shade of your choice into a paint tray and use an extended handle roller to apply. Let stain dry for 24 hours.

## Replace your AC Filters

If you have an individual air conditioner unit, remove it from the window and change its air filter. For less than \$20 a new air filter will allow proper air flow from your furnace. If you have an HVAC system, change that filter as well. Replacing the filter every three months keeps hot and cool air clean and breathable. A dirty air filter forces your system to work harder and less efficiently.

## Fix your Screen

Stop the bugs from coming in this spring. Buy screening, screen spline (a thin, narrow piece of wood, metal or plastic that fits into or onto the edges

of the window and holds the screen taut), a screwdriver, 1¼ putty knife, a utility knife, clean paintbrush, small clamps, screening tool that has a convex wheel at one end and a concave wheel at the other. Next, remove the window or door. Using a flat head screwdriver or putty knife to pry out the old spline. Remove the screen and clear the channel with a clean paintbrush. Cut a new piece of screen two inches larger than the opening. Use the screening's tool's convex wheel to push the screen into the channel all around the window, keeping the screen smooth and taut. Cut a piece of the spline six inches longer than the perimeter of the opening. Use the concave wheel on the screening tool to push the spline and the screen into the channel all the around the window, maintaining tension. Finally, cut any excess screen from outside the spline with a utility knife.

## Install a ceiling fan

Ceiling fans efficiently and effectively reduce the need for air conditioning. Reverse the fan direction in summer so the airflow creates a wind-chill effect, making you feel cooler and allowing you to turn down (or off) the AC.

## Organize your Garage

Here's how to quickly organize your garage including hanging your bikes, yard tools, hoses and extension cords.

Tools Needed: Hammer, power-lite cordless drill, tape measure and level

Materials: Bike and tool hooks, 16 penny common nails, bungee cords, stud

finder, 3-inch wood screws

Hang Your Bikes: Once you have purchased your bike hooks from your local home center, find a location in your garage to hang your hooks, keeping in mind leaving access for your car(s) and a clean route to the house entrance. Use your stud finder to locate the ceiling joists and pre-drill a hole into the joist. The hole should be half inch the diameter of the thread on the hook. You can now hand screw the hook into your joist and are ready to hang your bikes. Use your tape measure and find your next joist, which is 16 inches away in either direction and repeat the process for additional hooks.

Hang your Hoses/Extension Cords:

Find your wall studs and hammer in a nail on a 45 degree angle. Use a bungee cord and hook one end on the nail, pass the other end through your rolled up cord or hose and hook that end on the nail. You have now freed the clutter from your garage floor in a quick, economic way. Install the foam insulation where the top and or bottom of sashes are to block out any outside air infiltration. You are now ready to plug in and cool off.

## Make your own cleaning solutions

Once for ounce, homemade cleaning formulas cost about one-tenth of commercial counterparts and they are better for you and the environment. You can save \$50 or more per year on commercial cleaners. A good all-purpose cleaner can be made with ½ cup of baking soda, 1-cup distilled white vinegar, ¼ cup basic liquid detergent and a drop of any essential oil you like (for a natural fragrance). Mix in a bowl and place in one or two glass jars. Use a sponge to wash almost any surface. Use hydrogen peroxide and lemon juice to wash white and brighten colors (much gentler than chlorine bleach) and let white dry in the sun to bleach and refresh them further.



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