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The look for less

Cari Giannoulas of LG Interiors pegs affordable pieces to recreate a gorgeous high-end design

BY ELLE EICHINGER



Melissa Lewis (left) and Cari Giannoulas

The mantra at Lewis Giannoulas Interiors (lg-interiors.com) — a design firm founded by principals Melissa Lewis and Cari Giannoulas in 2010 — is “livable luxury.”

“Long gone are the days of the rooms you cannot enter,” Giannoulas says. “It just doesn’t function in today’s lifestyle.”

This LG Interiors space — a traditional room with a hint of Parisian elegance — is the epitome of luxe living, featuring custom furniture, unique artwork and high-end drapery and finishes.

Splash asked Giannoulas to recreate the look on a smaller budget, using pieces from big-box stores and affordable accessories. For your own interior design project, follow the tips she offers here — and check out chicagosplash.com for a few more.

• Save on: “Art, accessories, side tables —

things you may want to change over the years as your taste changes. What we loved in our 20s is maybe not what we love in our 40s.”

• Splurge on: “Your sofa [and other] major furniture items. If it’s a sitting room, splurge on your rug — but if it’s a room that gets high traffic, that’s an area where you would save.”

• Affordable alternative: “Silk rugs [are] very, very expensive. There are two materials that look the same but are a fraction of the price: bamboo silk and viscose.”

• Make your sofa appear high-end: “Choose the correct fabric — velvet is going to appear more rich and luxe than, perhaps, using a linen. Tufting or a French flange [a strip of fabric that acts as the seam of a cushion] are small details but make a world of difference to glamorize your furniture.”



Giannoulas' picks:



1. Crate & Barrel: Jules accent table, starting at \$249, 646 N. Michigan; Crateandbarrel.com



5. West Elm: acrylic trays, \$34-\$44, 1000 W. North; Westelm.com



2. One Kings Lane: Quinn swoop-arm chair in smoke gray ikat, \$289 (originally \$600); Onekingslane.com



3. Minuteman Intl.: single panel diamond fireplace screen, \$226.99; Hayneedle.com



4. Anthropologie: Love notes vintage wall art, \$498 (online only); 108 N. State; Anthropologie.com



6. Safavieh: Priscilla upholstered bench, on sale for \$346.99; Wayfair.com



7. West Elm: hand-loomed shine rug in silver, on sale starting at \$169, 1000 W. North; Westelm.com



8. Restoration Hardware: petite Kensington upholstered sofa in vintage velvet fog fabric, on sale starting at \$2,395, 938 W. North; Restorationhardware.com