

CHICAGO

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Where to Get Last-Minute Gifts for Home Design Lovers

Plus: A British design invasion arrives, tips from designer Kara Mann, and more

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The Talbott Hotel (20 E. Delaware Pl., jdvhotels.com) has partnered with Chicago-based design firm [Kara Mann](#) to refresh the hotel. Since she's known for creative mixing of styles in residential spaces, she offered Chicagoans considering a home makeover a few pro tips inspired by her work at the Gold Coast retreat.

1. Use neutral tones to set your background with wall finishes, drapery, and flooring.
2. Don't be afraid to insert some high contrast with light and dark.
3. Mix classic and traditionally styled furniture and lighting with modern styles for a curated look.
4. Layer in small, textural accessories and pieces of furniture with either a subtle pattern or pop of color to give the room some edge.
5. Stick with natural materials like stone, wood, and plaster. They'll stay relevant longer.