

\*Home of the Year Contest Winners

# Metropolitan Home

Keep It  
Simple:

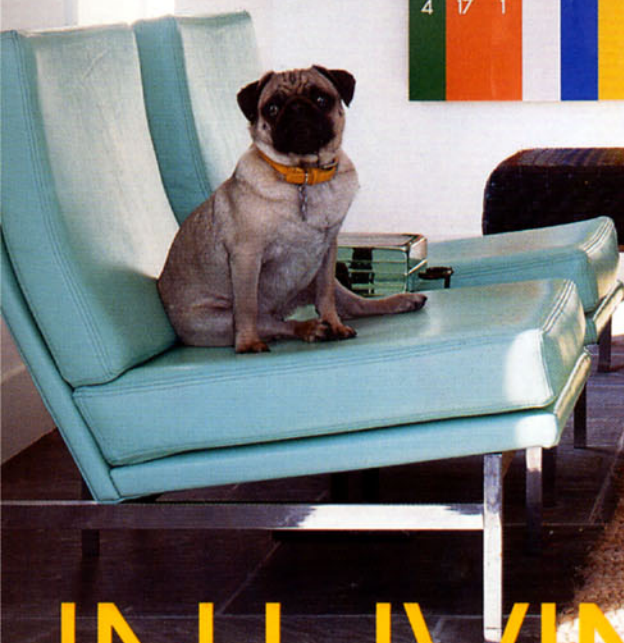
Small  
Space or  
Large,  
in City or  
Country



High/Low:  
Steal or  
Splurge

Roses  
Galore

Garden  
Goods



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# Shhhh...I'm Telling

FIVE DESIGNERS SHARE THEIR SECRET SOURCES, FROM HARDWARE TO LIGHTING. By Kate Walsh



**You can do amazing things with inexpensive clamp lights.**

I don't use any particular brand; I just get the generic ones at hardware stores that you can pick up for as little as \$5 a light. Clamp eight or ten or 12 to each other to form a chandelier, and you can achieve something spectacular with just \$50 and a little imagination. You could even jury-rig a few clamp lights together into sconces—really, the limitations are self-imposed (\$30/set of six clamp lights through Aubuchon Hardware; 800/282-4393, aubuchonhardware.com).

—Brian Murphy, BAM Construction/Design Inc., Santa Monica, CA

**I'm an adventure hardware shopper.**

Everyone waxes nostalgic about the independent mom-and-pop stores, but even big chains like Ace are more regional than you think; poke through the rows of drawers that hold screws and you'll make great discoveries. I just found some chrome bullet-shaped radiator air valves, and now my radiators are stylish. Whenever I'm traveling, I make a point of exploring the local hardware store. I love Davies Hardware in Poughkeepsie, New York (845/452-6742, davieshardwareinc.com); Liz's Antique Hardware in Los Angeles (323-939-4403, lahardware.com); and my all-time favorite is Servicio Estación in Barcelona, sort of the Spanish version of Home Depot (serveiestacio.com).

—James Biber, architect, Pentagram, New York City

**Rural Archaeology, Leonard Schechter's store in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, sells funky old sinks, toilets, vintage hardware and lighting that I use all the time. They customize the pieces for the 21st century, restoring the plumbing or wiring, making it functional but keeping the character of the thing intact. They find the weirdest old stuff—and their website is a kick (610/944-1711, ruralarchaeology.com).** —Michael Pierce, Pierce Allen, New York City

**Bolon—the plastic woven mat flooring you see in outdoor cafés—**

is a great way to cover cracked or stained tile and concrete floors. It comes in a range of bright colors and is incredibly easy to clean. I love to use Bolon as area rugs around sinks, or even wall-to-wall (the dealer will bind the edges). I have a client who installed it in her bathroom, and she says Bolon is a great option if you have kids: It's slip-resistant, virtually indestructible and much softer than concrete or tile on little feet (bolon.com for dealers).

—Thomas Michna, designer, Los Angeles

**For my own home I bought some Pottery Barn curtain panels,**

but because they come only in standard sizes, the drapes didn't reach the floor. So I bought some beautiful brass chain—the kind you can get at any hardware store—and made extensions (mine are about nine inches long) connecting the top of the drapes to the curtain rod. It looks great, it's really inexpensive, and it saves the cost and time of getting custom curtains made.

—Tori Golub, interior designer, New York City

