

10 Super-Easy Tricks To TURN YOUR PLACE INTO A HOME

It might not be permanent, but there's no reason not to love coming home to your flat. Here's how to make it not just another rental...

1 USE A BOOKSHELF TO DISPLAY FUN THINGS you've collected as well as your books. Get creative by arranging books based on their spine colours – reds together, yellows together etc.



Cushion Dhs149, Kas

Cushion Dhs145, Zara Home



2 "A BEAUTIFUL THROW AND GORGEOUS CUSHIONS WILL WORK MAGIC ON A PLAIN SOFA OR ARMCHAIR," says Dubai-based interiors blogger Kath Hawkes (houseofhawkes.net). "It's impractical to change your sofas on a regular basis, but by changing your cushion covers, you can refresh and update your living space as regularly as you like." She suggests choosing cushions in varying sizes, prints and textures for an effortlessly-styled look.



3 AN EXTRA-LARGE AREA RUG is an investment, but it's the best way to hide ugly floors and create sections in a large room.

Rug from Dhs649, Crate and Barrel

4 BRINGING THE OUTDOORS IN IS A TRICK STYLIST'S USE TO CREATE A 'HOMELY' FEEL.

"Faux or the real deal, plants and flowers will always bring life and glamour to an otherwise dull room," explains Kath. She suggests using a variety of small and large indoor plants, or clusters of vases (even if they only contain a single stem)



Vase Dhs99, Ikea

Vase Dhs29, Ikea

Vase Dhs145, Ikea



5 REMOVE CUPBOARD DOORS TO CREATE INSTANT OPEN SHELVING and add a touch of colour and individuality by lining the backs of the cupboards with wallpaper. Bright and quirky wrapping paper is the ideal inexpensive go-to for this type of project – just cut to size and paste using an adhesive glue.

6 YOU DON'T NEED TO SHELL OUT ON EXXY ARTWORK.

Instead, grab a selection of cheap frames from somewhere like Ikea and go crazy framing anything from postcards and concert tickets to even pages from magazines.



7 ESPECIALLY IN SMALL SPACES, A MIRROR INSTANTLY OPENS UP A ROOM.

Position it opposite a window to reflect plenty of sunshine back into the room and light up your life! An ornate or interesting frame adds bonus style to your space.



Removable Wallpaper Dhs1,832 per 52"x120" roll, GrayMalin.com

8 ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO MAKE YOUR MARK ON A ROOM IS TO CHANGE THE WALLS.

"And you needn't paint a whole room – a feature wall will always do," suggests Kath. If you really can't paint the walls, consider removable wallpaper. We're in love with photographer Gray Malin's dramatic removable wallpaper, produced in collaboration with Black Crow Studios. Think gorgeous overhead landscape shots on a large scale. There's even an option featuring a beach in Dubai! Check out GrayMalin.com and his Instagram @graymalin for more info.



9 DON'T BE AFRAID OF PAINT.

Adding a few coats to a few key pieces of furniture (like chairs, especially when paired with a plain white table) adds extra interest to a room. Ikea's selection of untreated pine furniture is the perfect place to start, then head to Ace Hardware to choose your paint. Otherwise, choose ready-painted brights from stores like Crate and Barrel.

10 LIGHTING IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED IN A RENTAL SPACE, YET IT CAN CHANGE THE ENTIRE MOOD OF A HOME.

"Replacing a boring bulb with a statement chandelier or pendant will instantly add style and a sense of luxury," suggests Kath. "Floor lights, assorted table lamps and oversized candles will also add to the decorative aesthetic of your space." ■



Lamp Dhs179, Home Centre