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# AMAZING DECORATING SECRETS

## TOP DESIGNERS KNOW

The world's best designers—they're just like us! In other words, they too need to save a few bucks now and then, but don't want their rooms to *look* like it. Steal their go-to tricks to give your house extra style on a next-to-nothing budget.



### SECRET No. 1: YOU CAN FAKE A FANCY DINING ROOM

"A pretty table doesn't have to be pricey," says Gil Schafer, architect and author of *The Great American House*. All you need is four legs and a top: Reuse a relic or buy a cheapie, and hide it with beautiful fabric that skims the floor. Then make that gorgeous table multitask. "I use dining tables as desks"—that's his at left, covered in books—"and then clear them off when I entertain," says Schafer. Layer a plastic liner over the fabric and top with a tablecloth. "It's chic and dinner-proof!"