

HOUSE CALLS BY KENDRA NICHOLS

# Entertaining new ideas



**Mix materials and finishes** for a room that looks curated, rather than selected from a furniture line in a catalogue.

**Vary furniture heights** to create interest in a room by guiding the eye to rest on various spots.

**Use lighting to emphasize the room's focal point.** A spotlight highlights the wallpaper and reflects off the mirrored bar cabinet.

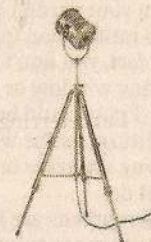
**Wherever there is a seat, there should be a place to set a drink.** This is especially important in a room meant for entertaining.

**Create a clear focal point** with a bold wall covering, drawing visitors into the room. The Birds and Birch wallpaper mural is removable.

## SPLURGE ...



Elsie swivel glider club chair in Suzanne Kasler greige linen (\$953, [www.ballarddesigns.com](http://www.ballarddesigns.com))



Monahan adjustable tripod lamp in antique silver (\$1,584, [www.bellacor.com](http://www.bellacor.com))

## ... OR SAVE



Luxe chair (\$140) and charcoal slipcover (\$120), both from [www.worldmarket.com](http://www.worldmarket.com).



Studio spotlight (\$279, [www.homedecorators.com](http://www.homedecorators.com))

## THE CHALLENGE



After more than six years, Trish O'Hara's Alexandria living room is still a blank slate. She and her husband want to finally create a casual place where they can read or hang with guests. Because it's the first room

visitors see when they enter the home, the couple would like some "wow" factor, but nothing over the top.

## THE SOLUTION

Designer Anna Kucera makes the back wall a focal point, inviting guests in with a casual but stylish seating arrangement.

**Kucera, of Gracious Living by Design** ([www.graciouslivingbydesign.com](http://www.graciouslivingbydesign.com)), is based in Alexandria.



## SHOPPING GUIDE

**Furniture:** Beverly sofa in ivory (\$3,300, [www.williams-sonoma.com](http://www.williams-sonoma.com)); Cathedral console table (\$233) and Deco Bacall faux silk velvet wing chair (\$285), both from [www.wayfair.com](http://www.wayfair.com); Tibetan Cloud ceramic drum (\$80, [www.worldmarket.com](http://www.worldmarket.com)); Sylvester bar cabinet (\$1,859, [www.horchow.com](http://www.horchow.com)); rectangular parquet-top coffee table (\$999, [www.wisteria.com](http://www.wisteria.com)); turned brass side table (\$248, [www.anthropologie.com](http://www.anthropologie.com)).

**Accessories:** Decorative lumbar pillow cover in silver gray and ivory lattice pattern (\$28 each) and ikat pillow cover (\$36 each), both from [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com); Dagny curtains in light beige (\$60 per pair, [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)); **Birds and Birch** wall covering in mocha and beige (\$355 for a 47-square-foot roll, [www.casartcoverings.com](http://www.casartcoverings.com)); Patrician rug in dark gray (\$447, [www.homedecorators.com](http://www.homedecorators.com)).

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