

# This Is the One Simple Item That Can Completely Transform Your Space, According to Designers



Design a room, and you'll probably pick out the main, big-ticket furniture players first: a sofa, bed, desk, rugs, and so on. It makes sense, considering these have the most dominant presence in a room and take up the most space. That's not to say that the little details should be overlooked, of course. Even something as seemingly simple as a stylish side table or sculptural candleholder can become an unsung focal point here.

That got me thinking, though: Of all the decorative touches you can introduce into your space, what's the *one* specific home item that can have the most transformative impact overall (beyond paint)? Say you're redecorating on a budget and want to know which individual element to prioritize above all others, or you just are genuinely curious about the most statement-making component of your current layout. To help get the scoop, I polled a handful of interior designers on this very question. Results varied, but one heavily repeated response became the clear-cut winner — drum roll, please — **lighting**.

Lighting placement is key, too, even down to the specific angles and orientation, says designer Kristin Bartone of Bartone Interiors, who shares a genius styling hack. “When selecting ceiling fixtures, select lighting that points up towards the ceiling to create a larger ‘skylight’ effect and eliminate shadows that make you look tired,” she says. This idea isn’t exclusive to just pendants or chandeliers either. “Pro tip, you can even take existing light fixtures at bathroom vanities and switch them to face upwards,” Bartone adds.

Moral of the story: Never underestimate the power of good lighting. As these design pros have pointed out, it’s versatile, practical, and another opportunity to accent your space and inject more personality into it. Don’t forget the bulbs either — matching light temperatures can make your spaces sing!