

AD IT YOURSELF

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29 Designer-Approved Dining Room Ideas

Feast your eyes on fresh decorating inspo for your dining space

By Amelia Mularz
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Photo: Courtesy of Studio Sven

Go for banquette seating

Think outside the box with seating, especially when space is limited. "In city living, we embrace the beauty and comfort of dining banquettes," says Lauren Svenstrup of [Studio Sven](#) in Chicago. "They are comfortable and a great use of space." They're also nice for spreading out if your dining room sometimes doubles as an office.



Photo: Ryan McDonald

Consider a convertible dining space

Svenstrup says the first step in designing a dining room is determining what your lifestyle calls for. Do you need a dedicated dining room? Or, "could it be a convertible space like a library that converts into a dining room when you have people over?" she asks. "For homes that are open floor plans with one, large area, this space must be treated as such with the dining area being more fluid with the rest of the space."



Photo: Ryan McDonald

Paint the ceiling

"Don't forget the fifth wall—the ceiling!" says Teresa Manns of [Teresa Manns Design](#) in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. "Something unexpected there can level the room up ten notches." In the dining space above, designed by Studio Sven, the blue ceiling almost mimics the sky right outside the window-lined space.



Photo: Ryan McDonald

Give chairs the spotlight

"The chair is often the first thing we select, because it is the most essential item in terms of comfort and therefore experience," says Svenstrup. "It is also one of the biggest driving factors in the overall cost of the dining room." And because the chairs are usually seen first, even before the table, they deserve their own wow factor, such as colorful or textured seat pads.