



THE LAST WORDS

The Power of Black

To add glamour—or gravitas—to any room, a dash of black is all you need.

Interviews by JEN RENZI

"In an all-cream living room, we added three black items: a Tom Dixon screw-top table with a black base, **pillows** with black backs, and a life-size black horse. Those touches gave the space some weight." GHISLAINE VIÑAS



"A black drapery rod

is a classic touch that works in any room. The strong horizontal line adds volume and height to the windows, as well as a touch of masculinity and drama to the space."

JEFF ANDREWS

"The first room I ever decorated, for my 10-year-old self, had **black patent-leather walls**—well, super vinyl, actually—and glossy white trim. These days, black helps keep my hyper-colorful schemes from becoming too 'Good Ship Lollipop.' Art is a great way to get some black into a room. I just bought a number of black-hued paintings for clients at Art Basel. And I still love black patent!" JAMIE DRAKE



"A tiny line of black absolute granite at the base of a wall is like the perfect eyeliner."

LAUREN ROTTET



"I like black cars, black dresses, and black pearls, but I tend to use the color very judiciously in interiors, because it can be overwhelming.

Mostly, I use it to balance paler finishes. For instance, **honed solid-black marble countertops** can give an otherwise light-hued kitchen a hint of industrial chic." SANDRA ESPINET

"It's dramatic. I'm currently doing an apartment with a **balance of black and white walls**—the black walls recede and dissolve and create the impression that the white walls are floating. DAVID MANN

"When you have a room that overlooks a gorgeous landscape, **paint the window mullions black.**Surprisingly, this makes the mullions recede into the background and brings the outdoors in." KARA MAN

"Some black in a traditional space can introduce a younger, more modern point of view. I recently took a gilded Louis XVI chair and upholstered it in **black pony skin**, a bit of a surprise on what would normally be a very classic chair." BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN

