



EBONY AND IVORY "Wood floors are the most universally desirable flooring product, although rather than warm brown and red tones, we are seeing variations of white, gray and ebony," says Beth Ann Shepard, president of home staging company Dressed to Close. Here, an ebony wood floor is a study in contrasts paired with a white armchair and stool side table — a look that can work across many interior styles. (310) 556-0418, www.dressedtoclose.com.

LOCO FOR COCOA Paint transforms a room faster and more cost-effectively than almost anything else. Chocolatey walls in this den by home stager Dressed to Close lend a cozy vibe and complete the space with great contrast against crisp white builtins and furniture. Intense hues give small spaces an air of wealth and success. "We often use paint to quickly update a home for the sale," says president Beth Ann Shepard. "Secondly, I love to add a new lighting fixture. This is another reasonable investment that goes long way toward setting the stage. Lastly, we add a stylish, new area rug. These three fundamental steps led me to start www. FabulousbyFriday.com, an online design source that promises you only need to buy three fabulous items to implement major style and change in your home." (310) 556-0418, www. dressedtoclose.com.