



NewJerseyHomeShow.com

For: Immediate release

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TRADING SPACES' LAURIE SMITH SHARES NO-FRILLS DESIGN TIPS AT THE 30TH NEW JERSEY HOME SHOW FEB 22-24 IN EDISON

Edison, N.J., January 22, 2019—Prominent interior designer Laurie Smith, known by millions of *Trading Spaces* viewers for transforming rooms in two days with a \$2,000 budget, will share some of her best ideas for making design work for home decorators at the 30th [New Jersey Home Show](#) in Edison at the New Jersey Convention Center, February 22-24. Smith will speak on Friday at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. On Saturday she's on stage at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm.

In addition to Smith, the show will spotlight more than 200 remodelers, contractors, interior designers, landscapers and kitchen & bath designers. Visitors will also see the latest outdoor furniture styles and spa equipment, attend painting classes and enjoy the work of artisans and craftsmen. Junior attendees may participate in a new Creativity Kids Zone.

Smith describes her hallmark modern classic design style as one that nods to the traditional while coloring outside the lines. Quoting one of her professors, she said, "You must understand the rules to break them."

Here are highlights of some of the rules that guide her:

LIGHTING

"I believe lighting is the most powerful tool in design," she said. "What is the point of investing in fabric, furniture and art and painstakingly choosing a wall color if you live in the dark? The key is to find balance between a room that is too-dark and one that's overly lit.

"Placement of light is an art," she added. "A chandelier anchors a room and is decorative, but it, alone, won't properly illuminate a space. Unfortunately, in many cases, recessed lighting in ceilings can achieve the look of Swiss cheese if not placed correctly. Instead I prefer one overhead light fixture, lamps and wall sconces in my living spaces.

"I will not live in a home that doesn't contain dimmer switches. The cost of these switches is nominal and the impact on ambient light is vital. In a master bedroom project for *Trading Spaces*, to air this spring, the effect of a dimmer that achieved a soft light—in addition to the new bedding and room color—is what awe-struck the homeowners."

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DESIGN TIPS HIGH ON IMPACT LOW IN COST

- “Most people think that the first thing to do when changing the look of a room is to choose the wall color and paint. I suggest that this should be the **last thing**. Paint should be the icing on the cake.
- “To add fresh perspective to a room consider new upholstery, throw pillows or unique lamps.
- “If the room looks drab after you do this, think of adding an area rug or changing the wall color. There may be a subtle or unexpected color in one of the patterns of your new textiles that inspires a new area rug or wall color. If the wall wins, bring the pillow or swatch of upholstery to the paint store. Staff will make a perfect match.”

DESIGN TRENDS

“For 20 years I’ve been telling clients and TV viewers that their space is an extension of themselves. They should feel free to curate their home with pieces they love and not be driven by a color or design trend they don’t like.”

BACKGROUND

Smith designed a line of fabrics and lighting and authored *Discovering Home—Find Your Personal Style*, a how-to manual based on the renovation and design of her own mid 20th century home. The book—a cornerstone of her presentation at the New Jersey Home Show—is written for anyone wanting to plan, shape and redefine a space in their house.

Smith was one of the first designers on TLC’s *Trading Spaces* in 1999. For 10 seasons, and multiple *Emmy* nominations, she remade spaces in her trademark modern classic design every week. In 2018, *Trading Spaces* rebooted. Smith and cast just completed a second season to air this spring.

In addition to her seminal role in *Trading Spaces*, Smith has appeared on *The View* and *The Today Show*--where she decorated Katie Couric’s office. Her work was featured in *House Beautiful*, *House & Garden*, *Metropolitan Home*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Southern Living*, *Woman’s Day*, *Guidepost*, *O Magazine* and *People*.

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Website: Visit <https://www.newjerseyhomeshow.com>
Where: New Jersey Convention Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837
Hours: Friday Feb. 22, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday Feb. 23, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Sunday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 for everyone 16 and older. Children under 16 free.

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