

# THE ESSENTIALS

Solutions for the Busiest Rooms in the House



UTILITY

## Wash and Wow

Don't let its beauty fool you—this luxe laundry room really *works*.

PHOTOGRAPHER SETH SMOOT; STYLIST LILEILA NICHOLS. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

## UTILITY

A Villaverde Marrakesh lantern illuminates the dog bath. Marlon flush-mount lights, Waterworks. Architectural cabinetry, Clive Christian. Gilmore knobs, Restoration Hardware.



When designer Dina Bandman got the chance to create a laundry room at this year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase, she gave the typically overlooked space a dramatic upgrade: unexpected lighting, scenic wallpaper, and a spot for sudsing pups were all integral. "The laundry room is the new powder room!" Bandman says. "It should feel special and be an extension of your home's design."

### 1. ARTFUL EXPRESSION

"I'm obsessed with blue and white—stripes, ginger jars, *anything* preppy," Bandman says. When she saw de Gournay's hand-painted *A Thousand Li of Rivers and Mountains* wallpaper, modeled after designs from China's Song Dynasty and in a Delft-inspired colorway, she fell in love. "My taste is classic, and this cobalt scene almost looks like a ginger jar on the wall," she says.

### 2. PUPPY PARLOR

"I designed the dog wash for ease: Sit on the ledge, hold them firmly—they jump!—and rinse them with the Kohler Finial hand shower," Bandman says. She tiled the canine cleaning station in two-by-eight-inch tiles from Country Floors.

### 3. BOLD STATEMENT

To offset the traditional wallpaper, Bandman used parquet flooring in marble from Country Floors. "It's a strong pattern, but since the hues are muted and it's a small area, it works," she says.

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### 4. DRYING ZONE

Not willing to risk damp clothes against the wallpaper, Bandman installed Sinuous, a mosaic tile from Artistic Tile, in Calacatta Gold along the entire length of one wall. “It looks like ripples of water, which echoes both the wallpaper’s watery pattern and the floor’s gray and white tones,” she says. A custom Lucite rod between two upper cabinets makes for a handy air-drying spot.

### 5. SURFACE MATTERS

“I knew I wanted open

shelving on one side to keep the room feeling airy,” Bandman says. She had Cambria—which created the countertops with an ogee edge from its Ella quartz—customize matching shelves. A local silversmith designed the bistro brackets, which are similar to ones Bandman had seen in Parisian restaurants, to support the stone shelves. The 24-inch Bosch 800 series washer and dryer fit this narrow footprint perfectly and allow room for a folding station above.

This Lucite rod from TAP Plastics costs less than \$30!



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### 6. SMALL YET MIGHTY

To provide utility in this tiny space, Bandman paired Kohler’s Iron/Tones sink—at eight inches deep—with the company’s Artifacts faucet to give a clearance of 17 inches to the sink bottom, making it ideal for handwashing delicates or filling up water bowls for the dogs.

### 7. A POSH SURPRISE

The heavily used top drawers are lined in Edelman Leather’s Gaufrage suede, so grabbing a dog leash or chew toy becomes a pleasingly tactile moment.



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