

INTERIOR INVESTMENTS

Designer **Brian Milburn** gives us 10 items worth splurging on in the New Year.

1. A great showerhead can make early mornings far less painful. The Fairfax series from **Kohler** repeatedly receives the best reviews for flow and ease of operation. (Ferguson, 8532 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, 310-657-1750; kohler.com).

2. I love throwing dinner parties, and the perfect table is not complete without elegant flatware. Since 1867, **Ercuis** (Neiman Marcus, 9700 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-550-5900; ercuis-raynaud.com) has been known for blending quality, tradition and modern design. The Sequoia collection is a personal favorite for its timeless look.

3. No bed is complete without quality sheets and **Frette** linens (459 N. Rodeo Dr., Beverly Hills, 310-273-8540; frette.com), and their sky-high thread counts will lend sophistication to any room. Made in Italy, Frette's renowned looming process results in beautiful jacquard weaves and fabulous textures.

4. **JL Coquet's** Hemisphere collection (Gearys Beverly Hills, 351 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, 310-273-4741; jlcoquet.com) for dinnerware is a must-have for any table setting. It's smart, sophisticated and not your grandmother's china. It's also a grouping that will never go out of style.

5. The key to sound sleep is a good mattress. I'm obsessed with the Pillowtop by local manufacturer **Royal-Pedic** (341 N. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-278-9594; royal-pedic.com). Its mattresses are not only ergonomically designed to support the torso, they're hypoallergenic and hand-tufted, too.

6. An upholstered headboard in neutral linen is a staple for any bedroom. I love the chic Manhattan Bed by LA furniture maker **Cisco Home** (Mecox Gardens, 919 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, 310-358-9272; ciscocatalog.com).

7. **Rigaud** candles from Paris (Candle Delirium, 7980 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, 323-656-3900; candledelirium.com) are long lasting and add a wonderful fragrance to any home. The gardenia votive has a soft scent reminiscent of spring—reminding us it's just around the corner.

8. There's no substitute for an amazing upholstered piece to anchor a room. As a rule of thumb, a seven-to-eight-foot sofa in a neutral tone can help do that. **Kravet's** Jazz Sofa (8687 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, 310-659-7100; kravet.com; must be accompanied by a designer to purchase) instantly transforms a space.

9. Add an element of glamour to your countertop with **Concetto** by **CaesarStone** (Cooper Design Group Los Angeles, Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, 310-659-8222; caesarstoneus.com), comprised of beautiful fused semiprecious stones. It has the ability to light up any kitchen or bathroom vanity.

10. The complete home should always be prepped for an impromptu celebration. **Steuben Glass** stemless Champagne flutes (Gearys Beverly Hills, 351 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, 310-273-4741; steuben.com) are great for toasting a special occasion. Crafted in New York, their unique firing process renders the glass pure and free from imperfections. Cheers!



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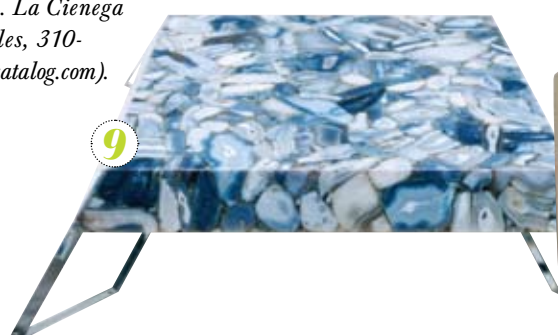
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