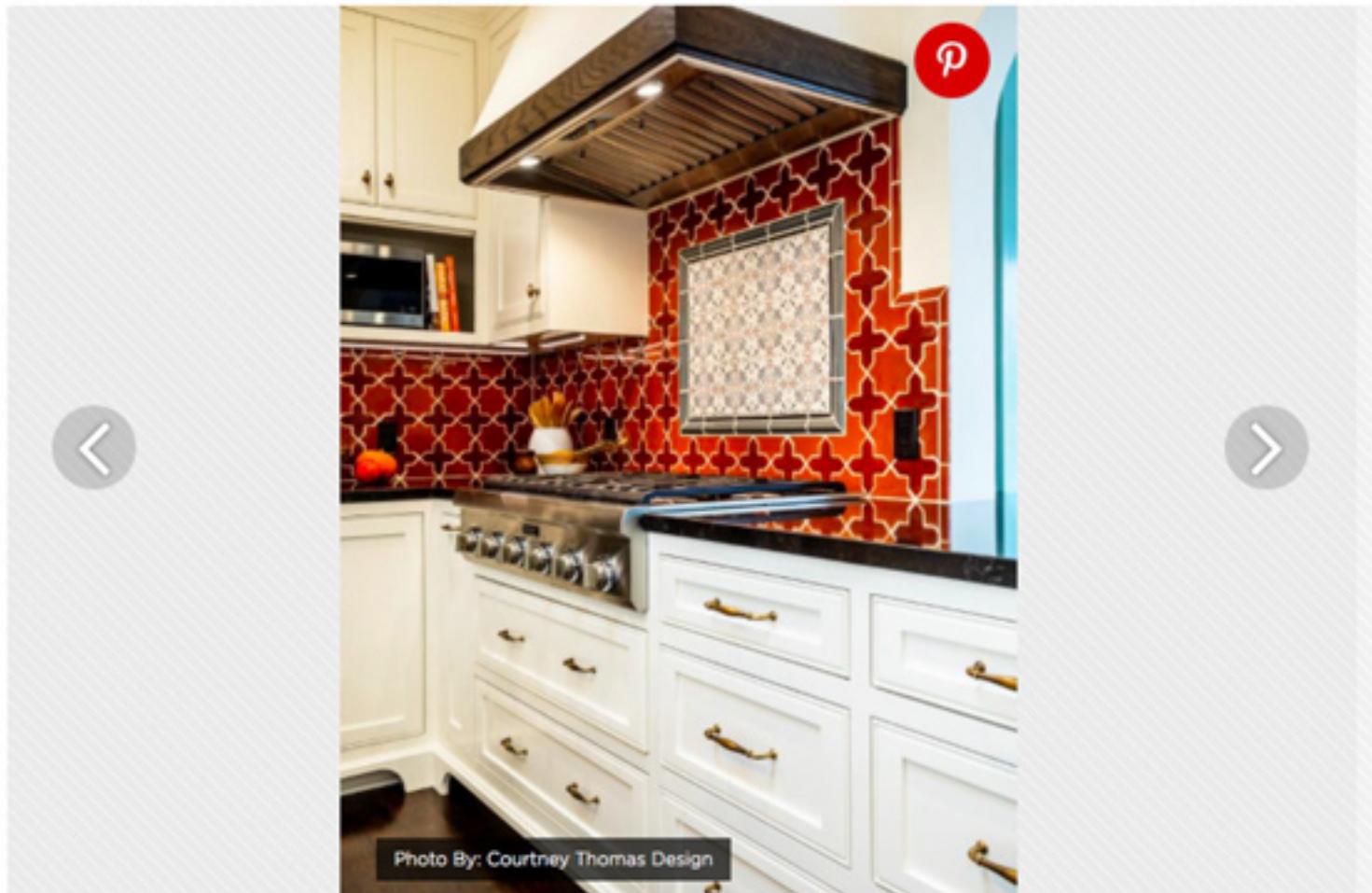






# 20 Ideas to Breathe New Life Into Your Home

Designers share their best tips and tricks for refreshing every room in your home.



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## Refresh Your Kitchen Backsplash

"Changing out a backsplash is a relatively painless change you can make to your kitchen that has huge impact!" says interior designer [Courtney Thomas](#). She offers four helpful tips for taking the plunge. First, consider handmade glazed tile for a dose of color, and opt for local tile to save money and time. Second, balance the pizzazz. "If your counters are full of movement, consider something calmer or more muted for the tile. The reverse would also be true: If the counters are solid, consider something playful on the backsplash, as we did in this home," she says. Third, consider your surroundings. "If the rooms adjacent to the kitchen are of a certain style, play to it. When you follow the style of the house, I think the room is less prone to feeling trendy," she explains. Last, keep the size, scale and pattern of the tile in mind. "Too many grout lines and contrast colors can be dizzying and tiresome after a short while," she cautions.



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## Lay Fun Tile in a Small Space

[Courtney](#) loves using bold tile in small spaces, but she tends to stick to the one-bold-pattern-per-small-space rule. She explains her reasoning: "If I add it, I want it to stand on its own. I won't compete with it by adding many more patterns." Her practical advice for following this rule? "If you have tile wainscoting full of movement, consider something calmer or more muted for the floor. The reverse would also be true. If you want to go bold on your floors, consider leaving the main walls bare so your floors can pop."