



THE NEW BOHEMIANS HANDBOOK

COME HOME TO GOOD VIBES

Justina Blakeney

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DABITO









**I believe that
good design
increases
quality of life.**

**I believe in
vintage,
organic,
and handmade.**

**I believe in
the healing power
of plants,
good light,
and fresh air.**

**I believe that
objects made with love,
care, and good materials
bring those qualities
with them wherever
they go.**

**I believe that
creativity and
good vibes
can save
the world.**



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INTRODUCTION: WHAT'S YOUR VIBE?

Hello! Thank you for inviting me over. I'm excited to lend you a hand in making your home your happy place—the place where your best self thrives and where you feel relaxed, creative, energized, and whole.

I know that decorating a home can feel intimidating. Maybe you are living in a rental, or working with a limited budget. I get it. The pin-sta-blogs of the world might make you feel like you don't have the resources it takes to create an amazing home. Many books, blogs, and magazines make it seem that you need an interior designer and a million-dollar budget to furnish a home you love. But it's just not true. You don't need a designer, a design degree, or designer furnishings, and you don't need to spend a bunch of money. You already have all the essential resources—your intuition, your imagination, your capacity to play, experiment, and try new things.

I've met plenty of folks who've lived with all-white walls and a mattress on the floor for years because they felt paralyzed by the idea of making design decisions—they were afraid of making “mistakes.”

The only design mistake you can really make is to live in a space that doesn't reflect your personality, your desires, and your dreams—that is no way to live!

There is a deep connection between home decor and well-being. You can curate a vibe in which you live better, more effectively, and more happily in your home. I learned this lesson with my first home-decor client.

I came to the world of home design after working in graphic design and styling for many years. Before I got my first client through a friend, I had never decorated a house (other than my own tiny apartment). I didn't know the terminology, how to use computer-aided design (CAD), or how to draw



a proper floor plan. I brought a notepad and a measuring tape, and I took a bunch of photos on my phone as she told me what she wanted.

I was expecting her to tell me what her design style was, if she preferred bright colors or neutrals, or perhaps who her favorite interior decorators were . . . but instead she simply told me that she wanted to attract more love into her life.

At the time I was perplexed by this, but looking back, I was lucky to have a first client who knew what she wanted—what she really wanted. All I had to do was to help her realize her intention for the space in terms of home decor. So together we developed an aesthetic that supported her intentions—colors and imagery to reflect what love looked like for her. We used inviting, happy colors (especially in the bedroom), as well as words and imagery that made her feel romantic and loved.

It's been about eight years since I decorated that first home—and yes, she did find love shortly thereafter, and yes, I do take a bit of credit for that ☺—but I have a little secret to share with you. I still don't know how to use CAD or make a proper to-scale floor plan, yet somehow that hasn't stopped me from being featured in the top design magazines around the country or (more important) from creating spaces that people feel great in. One of the most frequent comments I get from people who come into my home or into spaces that I've designed is “this place has a great vibe.” To me that's the highest compliment.

The idea of “vibe” may seem ephemeral, but I see it simply as the totality of sensations and associations one encounters in a given space. It is the sights, the smells, and the sounds, but it is also the thoughts, the feelings, and the memories the space elicits, as well as the activities it facilitates.

So how can you be the author of the vibe in your own home?

Whether your vibe is modern, earthy, folksy, nomadic, romantic, or maximal, this book will hold your hand through the process of discovery and creating a home that supports your well-being.

We start off by gaining some **Clarity**. We shine a light on your space, both literally and figuratively. We clean up and let the sunshine in. We purge negative energy and focus your intentions on creating a beautiful environment in which you thrive.

Next, we **Flow**. This chapter is all about removing obstacles and arranging your environment to support your daily routines and enable the life you want to live.

After that, we dig a little bit deeper to look at our **Spirit**. What is your spirit animal? And what is your spirit plant? And where will they thrive, and for what do they yearn? What are the sights, scents, sounds, textures, and tastes that feed your spirit?

Next, we focus on **Growth**—and that means plants! Plants for days! How to care for them and how they can care for you!

Then, in **Harmony**, we orchestrate aesthetics, pulling together color, pattern, and texture into a balanced composition that sings!

I've also invited some friends—an herbalist, a crystal expert, a feng shui practitioner, a floral designer, and my favorite astrologers—to share their expertise.

All the while you will be invited in to explore the homes of more than twenty creative families whom I find to be truly inspiring. Besides my home, you will also get to peek into the home of hairstylist Christina Meneses, whose green thumb and eye for color is unmatched. Photographer Heather Culp's cozy casita in Topanga Canyon provides the perfect respite for her creative job and her pup, Avalanche. The home of my BFF (and amazing photographer) Dabito in New Orleans is a stellar example of how to mix boho with modern. Donna Humphrey's tiny cottage along the canals in Venice Beach provides inspiration for how to mix colors boldly and instinctively. Peruse pages 247–275 to get to know all of the families who generously invited us into their homes.

So now comes the part where you begin to manifest your dream home. Let's straighten up and get loose. Let's reflect and rearrange. Let's juggle patterns and plants and colors, and create a space for living and loving, dancing and dreaming.

OPPOSITE: What are the sights, scents, sounds, textures, and tastes that feed your spirit? Use them to start a decor plan for your space.







PART I





CLARITY

The first step for creating a home with good vibes is to achieve some clarity, both literal and figurative. Clear away the dust and the dirt and the dead leaves, remove any unpleasant sights, sounds, and smells, and purge any sources of bad feelings, memories, or associations. Let the light in and take a good look at what you need, what works for you, and how you want to live.

OPPOSITE: The entryway to this family home is kept clean and clear with a built-in storage area; a Martinique wallpaper and a kilim-covered bench make a pattern-filled statement. Home: Gardenia and Matthew Woodhams-Roberts



ABOVE: In my bedroom, French doors and a garden window let the sun shine in. The Moroccan wedding blanket on the bed and the wallpaper provide shimmering accents. The ficus tree acts as a focal point as well as an effective air purifier.

OPPOSITE: My current bedroom is light and open, and my life feels that way now too.

Light, airy, and open—that's the essence of clarity.

When I lived in Italy my apartment faced a busy, narrow street. My bedroom had a twelve-foot-high ceiling with angelic frescoes painted on it, and there were tall French doors leading to a balcony overlooking the Santa Croce neighborhood of Florence. But despite how amazing all of that was, my bedroom always felt drab, no matter what I did to it. Then one day, after a bad breakup, I deep cleaned my apartment.

For the first time, I gave those French doors a serious scrub and cleaned off what seemed like decades—maybe centuries—of muck. The amount of sunlight that poured into the room doubled. It was incredible what a difference cleaning the windows made.





So let's deep clean your space. And when I say deep I mean deep. Turn on some tunes and dig in. Start at the top of your room with the ceiling fans, light fixtures, top shelves, et cetera, and work your way down. Clean your windows (the outsides too, if possible!). Throw your window treatments, bedding, and pillow covers into the wash, vacuum your upholstery, mop underneath furniture, and remove dead leaves from plants. Open up all of the windows and air out your space.

ABOVE: Glass jars help keep items in sight and the kitchen neat. Home: Erica Tanov and Steven Emerson

OPPOSITE: Clarity is all about having an organized space filled with just the things you love. Home: Erica Tanov and Steven Emerson





NATURAL CLEANERS

When deep cleaning your home, may I suggest using nontoxic chemicals?
These all-natural cleaners can keep your situation truly fresh and clean.

ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

Mix 1 part water and 1 part distilled white vinegar, and add 1 tablespoon of biodegradable soap (I like Dr. Bronner's Pure-Castile Liquid Soap). Put it in a spray bottle. Spray away and start to see things much more clearly. It even works on glass!



FABRIC/RUG/CARPET/MATTRESS CLEANER

Shake a layer of baking soda onto the fabric or rug, let it set for about an hour, and then vacuum it up. Smell ya later!



GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Grind citrus rinds in your garbage disposal to make it smell nice.



WINDOW SCRAPER

This very simple tool can make a surprising difference. It easily scrapes off caked-on dirt and old drips of paint from sloppy paint jobs. A clean window not only looks great, it also lets more sunshine in.





ABOVE: Natural, all-purpose cleaners are especially good for taking care of food-prep areas.
Home: Lauren Kolodny and Johnny Flanagan

CLEANSING

A deep clean can help you clear your mind and give you an intimate working knowledge of everything that is in the space. While I was deep cleaning the Florence apartment, I came across mementos from that toxic relationship. To be honest, I struggled to let go of it all, but once I finally did, it propelled me into the future instead of miring me in the past. Purging gave me a clean page for my next chapter.

So let's get rid of any objects that have resentments tied to them or that transport you to places you don't want to be.

Get a cardboard box (or five). If you don't love it, toss it. If it conjures up bad memories, is broken, does not fit you anymore, isn't comfortable, et cetera, it's time to say buh-bye. It doesn't matter how beautiful or how expensive it is. From old photos of you and your exes to a gift that you got four years ago that you held on to out of guilt, put it all in the buh-bye box. Close up the box. Bring it to a donation center, recycle it, whatever. If you have big furniture items harnessing bad vibes, go snap some pics and sell them online. Get rid of it. I don't care how you do it, but do it. Do it now. Stop reading this book and go. We are about to create some magic here, but we don't want to layer good energy on top of bad energy, you feel me? We want to start fresh.

Give yourself some time to go through this process of cleaning and cleansing. Whether it is one whole weekend, or two hours per room, do not skimp on this part. And hey, if deep cleaning is not your thing, it is OK by me to hire some help getting rid of those dust bunnies. If you find yourself still clinging to an object that brings you down, call your most ruthless homie to come pry it away from you.

OPPOSITE: Let go of the stuff that brings you down, and hold on to the stuff that lights you up! For the stuff you do hold on to, why not keep it in a beautiful collection of baskets? Home: Erica and Greg Reitman



ENERGY CLEANSERS

SAGE

Throughout the ages, burning sage has been used by many cultures for purification. The Latin word for sage, *Salvia*, translates to “healing plant.” There are many ways to cleanse with incense and burning herbs, but this is how I do it:

I like to use white sage bundles. You can find the ready-made bundles at health-food stores and New Age-y kinda shops or even forage it yourself (responsibly). Place the sage on any heat-proof burning surface—like an abalone shell or a simple ceramic bowl. Light the bundle until it begins to smoke. If a true flame appears, blow until it is just smoke and embers. You may need to relight the sage bundle a few times during the process, and that’s OK. You can “wash” your hands in the smoke and walk into it to cleanse yourself, then proceed to smudge your space.

Bring the burning sage to different pockets of your home, paying special attention to corners and any areas you feel may have stagnant energy.

(Never leave smoldering herbs unattended, don’t breathe in the smoke directly, and don’t hot box your rooms—take it easy.)



SEA SALT

You know how amazing that salty air feels when you’re walking on the beach? Let’s bring a bit of that vibe into our homes. Cultures and religions all over the world (and throughout history) have used salt in rituals as a purifier and to ward off evil spirits. It’s also a purifying agent for our bodies: Salt fights bacteria.

CLEANSING SPRAY RECIPE

This recipe combines the purifying powers of sage and sea salt.

INGREDIENTS

2 tbsp. gray sea salt

20 drops white sage essential oil

1 cup lukewarm water

Directions

Mix ingredients and pour into a spray bottle. Open up all the windows to circulate the fresh air, and spray the mixture anywhere that needs to be refreshed, paying special attention to corners. You can include a few drops of any number of fragrant essential oils in this recipe. I enjoy adding lavender for its calming properties.



LEFT: Sage, ready to be bundled.

LIGHT

We humans have evolved to perform optimally in the natural light of the sun. Exposure to natural light improves physical and emotional well-being, sleep cycles, and concentration. Our eyes and brains simply function better in natural light, and we can see more color, more vibrantly.

Maximizing natural light makes a home healthier, more beautiful, and more energy-efficient.

If your home lacks a significant amount of natural light, consider adding more windows, glass doors, or skylights. We put a new window in our kitchen and it was a total game changer. Now doing dishes is a much less dreary task, and the light that pours in reflects off the tile, adding luster and warmth to the room.

If putting in windows is not an option or within your budget, hanging mirrors across from existing windows can increase light and make a space feel bigger.

RIGHT:
Abundant sunlight pouring in from the window makes this beachy bedroom seem larger than its actual size. Home: Erica and Greg Reitman

OPPOSITE:
The white cabinets and surfaces such as the glazed backsplash help amplify light in my kitchen and energize the whole space.









ABOVE: A mirror hung on the diagonal and positioned opposite a window in this bedroom adds more natural light to the space. Home: Marisa and Peter Vitale

OPPOSITE: In this dome, a triangular window niche provides the perfect sun-drenched spot for writing. Home: Jesse Meighan and Michael France



The CFLS in an electric Himalayan salt lamp gives off a natural glow.



A fun mermaid lamp with an incandescent bulb rocks out.



A halogen lamp hides under an umbrella to create an amber-colored light.



LED café lights add a magical sparkle to a patio.

TYPES OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

While the idea of candlelit evenings is quite romantic, they are not always practical and you are going to want some electric lights. All artificial lights are not created equal.

Consult the guide below to help decide which type is best for your purpose.

INCANDESCENT LIGHTS give off a pretty, warm, and glowy light, but they are dinosaurs when it comes to energy efficiency and soon will be entirely phased out.

HALOGEN LIGHTS are a type of incandescent light that aims to simulate daylight. They are slightly more energy-efficient than straight incandescent lights, but not by much.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS are probably the lights you had flickering above you in your elementary school. They can give your space a bluish tone, and in my opinion are not always pleasant.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS (CFLS) consume 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. It takes a few moments for them to warm up and reach their full brightness. They're available in soft, warm, and bright white hues but cannot be used with a dimmer switch. Also, they contain mercury, making them a hazard if they break (and a hassle to dispose of).

LIGHT-EMITTING DIODES (LEDs) are long-lasting and extremely energy-efficient. They last five times longer than any comparable bulb on the market, which is reflected in their price. LEDs are now available in soft, warm, and bright white hues. These are the kind of bulbs that I use in my home, and while I don't love the light as much as incandescent, with the right shades, paint colors, and flush-mount fixtures, they can look pretty great.



VISION

Now let's shine a light on our needs and desires, our dreams and intentions. What is your vision for the space? How do you want it to look and feel? What do you want to do there, and who do you want to be? Big questions, I know, but to design a space is to shape the future.

A beautiful home with good vibes that supports our general well-being is our ultimate plan, and so we will always be decorating with that larger purpose in mind. Meditating on the larger goals of your life will help set intentions for your space.

Confused? This is what I mean: Perhaps you have a stressful job, and when you get home you want to relax. Perhaps you're single and looking for love. You may want your home to be a place that nourishes your creativity. Maybe you want your space to help you feel more energized, active, and healthy. Or maybe you dream of hosting meals or parties for family and friends? And of course you might want all of these things, so you might want to set different intentions for different areas of your home, to create a place of peaceful solitude, an efficient workspace, and a fun area for kids to play.



LEFT: Perhaps you want your home to be a place that nourishes creativity, like this den—designed as the perfect place to relax, rehearse, and host jam sessions. Home: Vanessa Dingwell and Charlie Overbey

OPPOSITE: This lush back patio is an ideal spot for hosting guests. Home: Christina Meneses

FOLLOWING SPREAD: A single room can be a multi-functional area for playing music, hanging with friends, practicing yoga, or reading. In this living room, the rugs and floor cushions encourage chilling on the floor, getting grounded, and relaxing. Home: Dana Cleverly and Jacob Rushing





RIGHT: Heather Culp's desk area in her tiny casita provides a relaxing setting for working.



RIGHT: Christina Meneses, who is a hairstylist, has clippings of cool coifs that keep her inspired.



So let's clarify your intentions for each room in your home. (This has nothing to do with what the room will look like—yet!) For example, I would want my home office to bring financial prosperity, creative inspiration, and action into my life. I want my living room to stimulate conversation, connection, and gatherings of friends and family. I want my bedroom to foster romance and relaxation. I want my bathroom to bring vitality, my kitchen to bring health, and so on. Now it's your turn.



For each area of your home you wish to work on, spend some time there and honestly describe how it functions and feels, both the positives and the negatives. Get a notebook and take some notes. What do you love, and what needs work? How would you describe the space in three words? How would someone else describe it? Who uses the room most? Does that person find it efficient and pleasurable? What activities take place here? Does the room have more than one main function? On a scale from one to ten, how much natural light does it get? Notice any interesting architectural elements? Does the room have a focal point? If so, what is it? Close your eyes. What do you smell? And what can you hear?

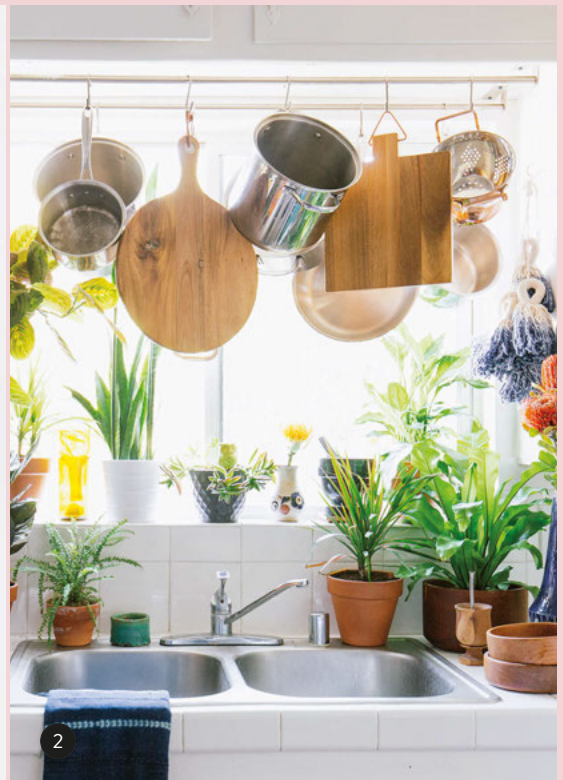
Now look to the future. How do you want this space to function and feel? What do you want to do here, and what do you want to smell and see and hear?

ABOVE: Choose dark colors to help relaxation. Here, a vintage screen found at a flea market functions as a decorative headboard against a soothing backdrop. Home: Erin Lucas and Marshall Lake

FOLLOWING SPREAD: Clarity of purpose creates a cozy space. The collections and intimate seating arrangement encourage conversation and catching up with friends. Home: Lauren Kolodny and Johnny Flanagan







ADOPT AN IDEA

1

A KEY SPOT
IN
THE HOME

A designated spot for keys and mail by the front door is a good way to help keep things organized. Underneath it, keep a cute basket to use as a recycling bin and automatically recycle junk mail before it winds up collecting around the house.

2

OUT
IN THE
OPEN

If you're short on storage space in your small kitchen, try hanging pots, pans (and plants!) in the kitchen window. (Here, simple poles from Ikea were used.) You'll get a window treatment and added storage space in one—and wet pans drip right into the sink! Boom, boom, boom!

3

OPEN
TO
CHANGE

Open shelving makes it easier to find things and stay organized. In this apartment kitchen, the cabinet doors were removed for an open shelf look. Adding some plants and showcasing beautiful dishware transforms the kitchen into a lush and lively place to cook.

4

USE
A LIGHT
HAND

Light switches don't have to be an eyesore. Use a light switch as an opportunity to add a bit of boho bling, as this hammered metal "hand" switch plate from Mexico does.





FLOW

Even a small amount of congestion or blockage can have a negative affect on your body, and, in turn, your whole system. The same is true for your home. If you have a point of congestion—a cluttered space, a crowded hallway, a piece of furniture that you step around or bump into every day—it will wear on you and affect your well-being after time. That’s why it is so important to address the flow, which we do in this chapter.

OPPOSITE: If you have seating near a high-traffic area, make sure to leave ample room for passing through. Home: Vanessa Dingwell and Charlie Overbey



Before



After

ABOVE, LEFT: Bad Flow: A shoe rack blocks the door from swinging all the way open; there is little storage; and the space looks spare. Home: Dabito and Ryan Bennet

ABOVE, RIGHT: Good Flow: The console is a spot for mail and keys, and there is a perch for removing shoes—and a place to stow them. The new mirror (for a last look before leaving), some plants, and space for the door to swing free all set the right tone. Home: Dabito and Ryan Bennet

OPPOSITE: Reclaimed doors are a nice touch in a building where the units all match on the outside. They immediately personalize this condo entry so that when you cross the threshold, you know you're entering somewhere special. Home: Johanna Maska and Henry Jackson

Our last home lacked storage space, so one of our solutions was to place hooks in our entryway on a wall behind our front door.

Before we knew it, however, the coats we hung there were joined by tote bags, umbrellas, strollers, you name it, until every time we opened the front door, it would push up against this stockpile of stuff.

We had been underestimating the importance of good flow. The makeshift storage area interfered with the swing of the door, blocked our passage, made our daily routine more difficult, and overlapped with a zone that should have been dedicated to transit. Let's now consider these four aspects of good flow as they apply to every area of your space.





SWING

At a bare minimum, all doors should be able to swing wide open. That means clearing the space behind the door and making room elsewhere to hang coats, store shoes, and accommodate all the flotsam and jetsam of daily life—strollers, yoga gear, sports equipment, leashes, you name it. It's magic, really. (One weekend, we cleared the area behind our front door for a photo shoot: The simple ability to swing the door all the way open made coming and going so much happier. We couldn't believe it!) Beyond that, it is worth considering changing the direction a door swings, or even removing it entirely, which can make a huge difference to the quality of flow in your space. For example, if the layout of the room is funky and the orientation of the door is not helping, consider changing the swing from left to right (or vice versa) to free up wall space where the door would otherwise rest. Or if you have a door that swings into a small space, consider flipping it so that it swings into the larger space instead. If privacy isn't an issue, why not remove the door altogether? (Not a huge DIYer? A carpenter can change the orientation of a door in about an hour.)



OPPOSITE: This custom-made door (once two doors) swings free, with coat storage placed in the entry rather than behind the door. Home: Johanna Maska and Henry Jackson



PASSAGE

In order to comfortably pass through a space without seriously cramping your style, you will need to establish passageways that are at least twenty-four inches wide (and if you're tall or blessed with curves, give yourself thirty inches). Pay particular attention to these measurements when choosing or arranging furniture; make sure the scale is proportional to the space and allows enough passage between furnishings where there is traffic flow. If you have a sectional sofa surrounding a coffee table, you may want to set it away from the wall to allow access from both sides. This creates an intimate seating area with good flow, and it solves the problem of tripping over coffee tables and guests. You can also use area rugs to delineate passageways and help keep them clear of clutter.

OPPOSITE, TOP: In this living room, the sofa is set away from the wall, so the other side of the room remains accessible (without forcing homeowners and guests to walk around the coffee table). Home: Erin Lucas and Marshall Lake

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: Centering the bed on this wall allows for easy access to the closet, bathroom, and hallway for both bedmates. Home: Gillian Lawlee and David Fouser



THIS SPREAD: A clean and clear passageway does not have to be boring. In this rental home, the black, ogee-shaped flourish painted on top of the door adds a fun detail to a plain passage and creates a pretty transition from one room to the next. Home: Gillian Lawlee and David Fouser



ROUTINE

Remember when you first moved into your home, before it was full of furniture and before you assigned a particular function to each room? Perhaps there were two bedrooms and one just seemed like the master bedroom so you decided to put your bed in that room? But maybe after a couple of months of sleeping in that master bedroom you realized that it is really loud during the night because it is near the water heater, or across from a nightclub, or there is some other annoying issue? Perhaps the prior homeowners used the room off the kitchen as the dining room, so you put your dining table there too. But now that you have lived in the space awhile, if you find the dining room functions as more of a workspace where your kids do their homework, you work on your passion projects at night, and your partner pays the bills or geeks out, you may want to rethink the space.

Just because a room seems like it ought to be dedicated to something doesn't mean that is the function it has to serve for you! Our home is a three-bedroom "jungalow." When we were deciding which rooms to assign to which function, we picked the smallest bedroom to be our daughter's room *not* because of the size but because we wanted her room to be closer to ours. We turned our extra bedroom into a combination TV/guest room so that our TV didn't become the focal point of the living room.

Now think about all the rooms in your home. Maybe the spare room is used as a guest room, but you rarely have guests. Would that room support your routines better as a dedicated workspace? Are you short on closet space, and could you turn that room into the boudoir or the walk-in closet of your dreams? Perhaps an underused closet should really be transformed into a desk area for you to start that jewelry business you have always dreamed about, or maybe your rarely used dining room should actually be turned into a guest room since you enjoy having visitors.



ABOVE, LEFT: Because the larger bedroom is far from ours, we chose this ensuite for our daughter. Maybe when she gets older she will move to the bigger room and this can become a walk-in closet (a girl can dream, right?).

ABOVE, RIGHT: When Paige Morse moved, she spent a few nights sleeping in every room of the new place before choosing this one as her bedroom—the room in which she had the best dreams.

RIGHT: A guest room doubles as an office for styling work. Props are stored in the closets so the room has space for visiting friends. (The closet doors were stained black; don't they look great?) Home: Merisa Libbey and Brian Overend



Do you really only use your bedroom for sleeping, but it's one of the largest rooms in the house? Consider switching things up so that you sleep in the smallest room and use the largest room to better reflect your intentions. Or—who knows?—maybe that unused bedroom could be transformed into a sublet for a little extra income. Evaluate the rooms in your home: Is each room advancing your daily routine in the best way? If not, consider swapping rooms or assigning different functions to rooms to best support your everyday life, as well as your dreams.



THIS PAGE: Who needs a garage, especially if you have small children? This one was turned into a home office (above) and a playroom complete with an indoor swing (left)! Home: Marisa and Peter Vitale

FOLLOWING SPREAD: This garage became a creative atelier and showroom for Lone Hawk, a hat-making business. Home: Vanessa Dingwell and Charlie Overbey







ABOVE: The kitchen work triangle “draws” imaginary lines—from the center of the sink to the center of the stove to the center of the refrigerator and finally back to the sink—to establish ease of workflow. Home: Justina Blakeney and Jason Rosencrantz

In kitchen design there is a concept called the “work triangle,” which is considered the ideal arrangement of the space for efficiency. The basic idea is that the stove, sink, and refrigerator are configured in a loose triangle to establish ease of movement. The same idea, arranging a room for maximum efficiency and good workflow, can be applied to all of the areas in your home; thinking about your daily routines is essential to creating good flow.

Consider your routine, and how it is enhanced or impeded by the way your furniture is laid out. Do dirty clothes always end up on a certain chair in your bedroom? Maybe that is where your hamper should go. Is searching for your keys between the sofa cushions an annoying experience? Let’s find a place for a little saucer or hook somewhere between the front door and that key-hungry sofa. When you are dashing out the door, do you find yourself bumping into the same table corner time and time again? It probably needs to be moved or replaced with furniture that is smaller or softer or has curved edges. Everything in your space should be arranged in a way that facilitates your daily routines.



ABOVE: If your belongings always end up stacked in the same spot, that is where storage should go. Home: Erica and Greg Reitman



LEFT: “A place for everything” can be as decorative as it is functional. Home: Faith Blakeney



ZONES

Sometimes rooms need to be divided into zones—even small rooms. Take my living room, for instance. We have no entryway in our current home. Instead, our front door opens right into our living room (left). So we have two functions competing for the same space. Our solution was to delineate separate zones: We added a long, slim runner to establish the “hallway” and used an area rug and chairs to establish the boundary of a separate sitting room. Passage through the space is now unobstructed and diverted through the “hallway,” away from the sitting area. We divided the space without even changing the architecture, and the two functions are separated.

You can use lighting to help delineate zones too. For example, you can establish a dining space within a large kitchen or living room by dropping a pendant light directly over the center of the dining table.



LEFT: Use a pendant light to create zones in an open space—like this geodesic dome’s living/dining area. Home: Jesse Meighan and Michael France

OPPOSITE: Our home lacks an entryway so we created zones in the space with rugs and furniture placement.

FOLLOWING SPREAD: In an open-plan, use area rugs to define rooms and passages to keep the path to the door easy to navigate. Home: Lauren Kolodny and Johnny Flanagan







Exercise:

Find Your Flow

OK, it is time to do a little experiment. Let's play with your furniture to enhance the flow through your space. In my experience, it's hard to really know how an arrangement of furniture will feel until you actually move the pieces around. So let's do it!

Try, for example, to rotate the entire arrangement in your living room (or whichever room you want to improve) ninety degrees clockwise. If a piece of furniture happens to block a doorway, try pulling it away from the wall a few feet. Now experiment with the individual pieces: rotate them, swap them, or remove them from the equation.

Once you've moved some stuff around, pause and leave the space for a couple of minutes and come back with fresh eyes. Think about your routines in the space and ask yourself: Would anything about this new arrangement make things easier or more comfortable? Now move everything another ninety degrees, or flip everything to the opposite wall, and continue experimenting.

Trust me, you never know what you might discover. Maybe you'll come up with an entirely new layout, or maybe you'll learn that the settee you thought would never work under a window actually looks great there, or that floating the sofa in the middle of the room actually opens the space up, or that the side table you love just does not work in this room. You might have been convinced that rotating the rug would not have made sense, but when you actually do it the space feels twice as big.



So give yourself the time and permission to experiment. Call a friend. Get a six pack, a bottle of wine, some kombucha, or whatever does it for you. Use furniture sliders to easily move things around without scratching your floors. Take photos of the new arrangements from different angles, so you can have a record of what worked and what didn't.

In Caroline Lee's living room, on page 74, we did the flow exercise and rotated the furniture into three different configurations. See on the opposite page how each arrangement completely changes the look, feel, and flow of the room. We used all the same pieces in each iteration.

There is not an arrangement that necessarily "works best." It really depends on how they want to use the space. Is the goal more connection with guests or each other? Then I'd go with C because the configuration of the sofa and chair allows for intimate conversations. Is the goal of the room to do more yoga? Then I'd go with B because I can see myself rolling out my yoga mat on that long white Moroccan rug.

When we arrived at their home, the room was configured like B, and when we left they asked us to keep configuration A. Sometimes, it's also nice just to change things up for the sake of changing them up!

OPPOSITE: One living room, three ways:
the same furniture pieces are used in each
arrangement. Home: Caroline and Jayden Lee





OPPOSITE AND ABOVE: In Christina Meneses's spare room we used all of the same pieces to create two distinct functions for the room. In the first iteration (opposite), the arrangement is perfect for a guest room. The second arrangement (above) works well as a place to hang out and relax.



ADOPT AN IDEA

1

RESPECT
THE FLOW . . .
REFLECT
THE FLOW

Mirrors can be magical when used strategically and can really help increase flow and create a more expansive feeling, especially in tight quarters.

2

A WELL-
ROUNDED
ROOM

If you have a lot of square shapes and angles in a room, a round piece of furniture, like this Moroccan tray table, can do wonders for the flow of the space.

3

FRONT-
DOOR
FLAVORS

Pick the door that's right for your flow! Want to keep pets or little kiddos inside but also want some fresh air? Try a Dutch door, like this one. Need more light in your entryway? How about a glass door?

4

PAINTED
PASSAGE

Use color to help bring two unrelated rooms together and help one flow into the next. We painted our breakfast bar green to create a transition between the living room and our green kitchen.





SPIRIT

Now that we have achieved some clarity about our intentions for our homes and arranged things to facilitate flow, it's time to dive deeper. What are the sights, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes that feed your spirit?

In this chapter we will do some playful introspection by asking questions about your “spirit animal,” “spirit plant,” and “spirit environment.” These questions are designed to reveal something about your personality, your dreams and inclinations, your tastes, and what kind of vibe will make your spirit soar.

What Is Your SPIRIT ANIMAL ?

Think about animals that you share traits with or that recur in your life.

For example, my spirit animal is the panda bear. I have loved the panda ever since I was a small child. I filled my room with panda-bear posters and duvet covers and collected books about them. I feel a kinship toward these cuddly bears because they are known for their tranquil strength and determination—traits that I feel I possess as well. They are herbivores, as I have been most of my life, and they are black and white—just like me! J

Thinking about the panda helps me curate the vibe in my space. Pandas love bamboo. It is no wonder I surround myself with bamboo furniture. Also, the panda's chiaroscuro markings make a bold graphic statement, just like the artwork I tend to favor.



ABOVE: In Caroline and Jayden Lee's home, wild wallpaper makes a statement: "With my pink hair and Jayden's red hair, we've always called each other 'flamingo' and 'fox,' and so this was a perfect representation for the playful fun we love to feel in our home. The once all-white walls are now filled with colorful warmth."



THIS SPREAD: Look for cues around your home to discover your spirit animal. Do you have lots of animal sculptures or figurines? Maybe that creature is your spirit animal.



What Is Your SPIRIT PLANT ?

Once you get to know them, plants have a lot of personality. Which ones do you identify with? Are you stately and standoffish like a cactus? Maybe you are tough and independent like the ZZ plant? Are you as easy to please as a pothos? Maybe you are fresh and productive like mint? Or bold and flexible like a monstera?

Think about plants you love, that you have kept in your home, or that often appear in favorite textiles or artwork. Are you in love with the poppies of O'Keeffe, or the philodendron leaves of Matisse, or the bamboo of Wen Tong? How do you feel about the iconic banana-leaf wallpaper at the Beverly Hills Hotel, or the tulip motifs found at Istanbul's Topkapi palace?

My spirit plant, for example, is the coconut palm. I feel a kinship toward this palm because of how versatile the coconut fruits are—they provide nutritious food, drink, oil, medicine, and a vessel to boot. I like to think of myself as being very versatile too, and I aspire to the heights of the coconut palm. It also has big hair, just like I do. ☺



Thinking about the qualities of the coconut palm can help me to discover things that I like to have in my home. For example, I adore palm leaf motifs, and even the texture of coconuts reminds me of jute, a material I love to use in home decor. I also love the smell of coconut and often wear its oil and burn coconut-scented candles.

If you are still unsure about your spirit plant, head to a local nursery, botanical garden, or even just walk around your neighborhood. Look at plants, smell them, touch them. Which one speaks to you? To which do you respond?



ABOVE, LEFT: A potted dracaena makes for a fun sculptural element on this entryway shelf.



ABOVE, RIGHT: Sword ferns enjoy the warm, humid atmosphere of this kitchen—steamy pasta for dinner is their favorite.



ABOVE, LEFT: Sansevierias are drought-tolerant and aren't finicky when it comes to lighting.

ABOVE, RIGHT: The Philodendron "Xanadu" is quite a showstopper with its bushy and lush leaves.

What Is Your SPIRIT ENVIRONMENT ?

Years ago I coined the term “jungalow” to describe my personal decor style because I was so often inspired by the jungle. I loved to fill my home with tropical plants and bright pops of color to give it that wild feeling. So that got me thinking . . . it is fun to talk about “spirit animals” and “spirit plants” as a way of revealing something about the vibe you desire for your home. So what about the idea of a “spirit environment” as a way to tie it all together? Take the following quiz to reveal what your spirit environment might be.



QUIZ

What Is Your Spirit Environment?

A



B



C



D



E



1. Which of the color palettes (on opposite page) are you most drawn to?

A
B
C
D
E

2. Which of these foods would you prefer?

Pineapples C
Dates A
Oatmeal D
Sashimi B
I prefer to eat Meat E

3. Which of these drinks would you prefer?

Tropical fruit juice C
Hot mint tea A
Fresh milk D
Coconut water B
Just a cool glass of water E

4. Which of these plants would you most want to see spring up in your garden?

You can't go wrong with bromeliads, birds-of-paradise, or a mounted stag-horn fern! C
I like to keep things simple with small white flowers, like jasmine or wild daisies E
I'd take succulents over flowers any day of the week A
I'm all about those wildflowers D
Nothing beats the beauty of water lilies! B

5. Where does your spirit animal spend most of its time?

In the water B
In the sand A
In the grass D
In the trees C
In a burrow or cave E

6. You have a good book to read and one hour to read it; you sit . . .

Cozy and bundled up on the balcony, overlooking vast snow-capped peaks E

On a picnic blanket in an everlasting field—with a light breeze and not a cloud in the sky D

On a chaise, under a canopy of intertwined branches, leaves, flowers, and fruit C

Floating gently on a raft in a freshwater lake B

On a chaise, under the warm sun but in the quiet shade of a Joshua tree A

7. Pick a vessel:

A small, handmade copper plate A

A handmade straw basket D

A handmade gourd bowl C

A Himalayan salt bowl E

An abalone shell B

8. You've been offered an all-expenses-paid vacation to one of these destinations; where do you go?

A comfortable yurt in the desert A

A tree house on a Caribbean island C

A luxe little house on a prairie D

A chic hut on the beach in Mexico B

A designer cabin in the Alps E

9. You've got an app with "sleep sounds," and your favorite sound to go to sleep to is . . .

Rhythmic waves on a beach B

Wind rustling through the trees E

Crickets and cicadas singing D

Calm winds blowing through the desert sands A

A harmony of chirping birds and rushing water C

10. What type of weather do you crave?

Dry heat A

I love the contrast of hot summers and cold winters D

Bring on the steam! C

Snow is the most magical E

I'll take any weather as long as I'm near the beach B

How Did You Score?

The earth has many different environments, each defined by climate, geology, soil, and vegetation. For the purpose of this exercise, we've used these five broad categories:

- A Desert
- B Beach
- C Jungle
- D Grasslands
- E Mountains

Now rank these categories from the letter you picked most to the letter you picked least.

I believe we all have certain environments that call out to us, and different environments may call to us in different stages or moments of our lives, so if you have a few answers from each category and no clear winner, the spaces in your home might reflect several environments.

In fact, we call our bedroom the “cosmic desert” because even though my husband and I both scored “jungle” on the quiz, we wanted our bedroom to have a peaceful desert vibe.

The following pages explore the various environments as they relate to home decor, and make suggestions about colors, textures, patterns, and plants.

After you uncover your spirit environment, it might be fun to share the quiz with people you live with, so you can foster an environment where everybody who lives there can thrive.

Once you have finished this exercise, you will have some solid ideas for curating the vibe you want.

It's OK to move slowly. Maybe change just one small thing per week. Live with the change for a few days and see how you like it. A home is something that is always growing and evolving, and that is a good thing.

Choosing a name for your home can be another fun way to develop a relationship with it, and it can bring the vibe you envision into focus.



THIS SPREAD:
Heather Culp blends
elements of desert
and jungle to create
the perfect spirit
environment for her
casita.





DESERT



A place that's
warm, calm, serene, sunny, and bright.

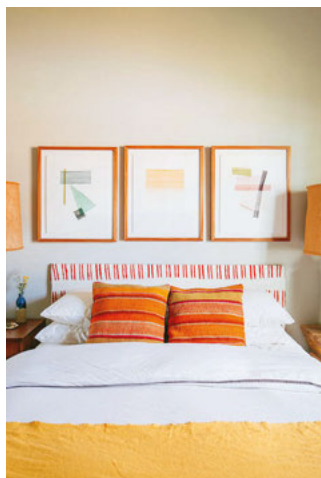
If your quiz answers are mostly As: take cues from the desert.

Think warm and open, casual and rustic. Earthy, sunbaked tones: burnt oranges of the Saharan sands, warm taupes of the Mojave desert, with accents of cactus green and stone gray to cool off some of that heat. Hang lots of mirrors in your home to reflect light and create a bright feeling of openness and vastness. Think about including desert flora in your home, like agave and yucca (provided you have ample sunlight). Host the desert plants in terra-cotta pots. For patterns, consider looking toward the master designers of the desert environment—the Bedouins of Morocco or the Navajo of Arizona and New Mexico—and draw inspiration from their textiles for your decor.

For scents, try juniper and white sage.

SPIRIT ENVIRONMENT

Desert



THIS PAGE:
Sunburnt colors, artifacts,
baked-earth textures,
and arid-zone plants help
create the desert spirit
environment



BEACH



A place that's
relaxing yet energizing, refreshing,
cleansing, and rhythmic.

If your quiz answers are mostly Bs: take cues from the beach.

Think deep ocean blues and seaweed greens, sandy neutrals, and pops of coral as accents. For white, try a pearly shell hue.

Don't shy away from shimmery surfaces that reflect light. Also include faded natural fibers and textiles and weathered woods. Try fringe trims reminiscent of jellyfish; use driftwood, sea glass, and fishing floats as decorative elements. Consider including variations of palm in your space—potted palms lend a beachy atmosphere to any space. Include patterns with rhythmic movement like Japanese shibori-dyed fabrics or resist-dyed indigo from Mali. Pair these blue fabrics with nubby linens and other natural fibers with a lot of texture.

For scents, try bergamot, lemon, and mint.

SPIRIT ENVIRONMENT

Beach



THIS PAGE: Suggest the wind, sea, and waves in your beach-spirit environment with water blue textiles, beach-combed finds, and natural elements such as coral.



JUNGLE



A place that's lush and lively,
dense, and dynamic . . . wild!

If your quiz answers are mostly Cs: take cues from the jungle.

The jungle is all about layers. Include all shades of green accented with unexpected splashes of hot colors—yellow, orange, pink, and red. Like the bromeliad and the bird-of-paradise, tropical plants and flowers are all about greens accented with bright pops.

The jungle is visually stimulating, captivating, and vibrant. Fill your home with tropical plants—croton plants for color, monstera plants for shape, and a dracaena for height. Layer on patterns with leafy motifs and colorful stripe patterns that feel bright and unexpected. Feeling extra wild? What about some animal prints? Maybe a tiger stripe or a jaguar dot? You never know what you might come across in a jungle! Try looking toward Mexico, India, and Indonesia for pattern inspiration. Otomi patterns, colorful saris and intricate batik patterns always look beautiful in a jungalow!

For scents, try vanilla and pikake essential oils.

SPIRIT ENVIRONMENT

Jungle



THIS PAGE: Make your home junglicious with hot colors, cool tribal motifs, and foliage, foliage—from prints to live plants.



GRASSLANDS



A place that's
bucolic, natural, dry, textural, and subtle.

If your quiz answers are mostly Ds: take cues from the grasslands.

Think vast and natural, earthy and simple. Soft colors, from corn-husk yellow to pale sky blue, with complementary colors like dusty pinks and off-white. For plants, include indoor trees like a large Ficus. Choose prints and patterns that highlight wildflowers and pastoral creatures; also, small-scale dots and florals will create a nice, soft accent. Take cues from the American Midwest with farm- and pastoral-inspired fabrics like denim, plaid, and checks.

For scents, try wild chamomile or lavender.

SPIRIT ENVIRONMENT

Grasslands



THIS PAGE: Channel the spirit of the grasslands with baskets, woven textures, and subtle colors.



MOUNTAINS



A place that's
serene, pristine, cozy, fresh, quiet,
and verdant.

If your quiz answers are mostly Es: take cues from the mountains.

Think about a space that would be a cozy respite from the cold but that reflects the spirit of the mountains. Decorate with plenty of brown, tan, white, and green. Add woodsy elements like reclaimed woods and logs, and warm textiles like faux sheepskins. Warm up the space with glowing accents: candles, table lamps, chandeliers, sconces. Instead of mixing lots of patterns, consider pulling together contrasting textures—fuzzy textiles, cable-knits, and a raised dot or stripe. For plants, consider the Norfolk Island pine.

For scents, try cedar and piñon incense.

SPIRIT ENVIRONMENT

Mountains



THIS PAGE: Wood furniture, rustic surfaces, and wool accessories are all part of the cozy, mountaintop cabin vibe.



ADOPT AN IDEA

1

TASSEL
TALISMAN

In cultures all over the world, tassels are used on clothing and accessories as a protective device. In the Middle East they adorn children's caps and prayer shawls, and in ancient Japan they hang from swords as protection. Hang tassels from doorknobs, curtain rods, or anywhere! I can't promise you they will ward off an evil eye, but I can assure you they are a favorite embellishment of mine.

2

HOLY
OBJECTS

Displaying holy objects and deity statues in your home can bring joy and calm. Looking at Buddha statues makes me feel happy and relaxed. Which holy objects speak to you?

3

KEEP THE
SPIRIT ALIVE

Inherited pieces, like this heirloom carafe that Jesse Meighan inherited from her late grandmother, can bring the spirit of our ancestors into our homes. (Whenever I look at paintings by my late uncle Bert, or wear jewelry made by my great-grandfather Harry, I feel their presence.)

4

HARVESTING
GOOD VIBES

Designer Lauren Kolodny harvested this hanksite on a memorable birthday trip to the Mojave Desert. Display your own foraged finds—shells, rocks, pieces of driftwood, or crystals like Lauren's—to bring home natural materials from your spirit environment.





GROWTH

I love plants! I will shout it from the greenest of rooftop gardens, the lushest of living rooms, and the most jungalicious of jungalows!

Nothing breathes life into a space like plants can, and I believe a home full of living, growing energy can support and encourage your own personal growth.

In this chapter, we will explore the versatility of plants, learn a bit about how to care for them, and decide which plants would work best for you and your space.





THIS SPREAD: A green and lush living room features a lively arrangement of tropical plants, including birds-of-paradise (*Strelitzia*), monstera (*Monstera deliciosa*), snake plants (*Sansevieria trifasciata*), and dracaenas (*Dracaena marginata*). Home: Dabito and Ryan Bennet

PLANTS AS

Window Treatments

Place plants in windowsills or hang them from curtain rods to create a jungalicious window covering.



PLANTS AS

Sculpture

A plant can function as a center of gravity around which everything else revolves. Tree-like plants such as dracaena, Ficus, and *Euphorbia ammak* can bring majesty to an otherwise modest space. Or set a plant in a ceramic or clay pot (for the weight) and make it a cute bookend.



PLANTS AS

Room Dividers

Need to divide a large area into smaller spaces? Use plants as a room divider. Hang them from the ceiling or place them on casters for ease of movement. In Christina Meneses's patio, she separates the parking area from the outdoor living space with a wall of cacti.



PLANTS AS

Air Purifiers

Boston ferns, spider plants, snake plants, dracaena, and peace lilies function as exceptional air purifiers. Got a bathroom with poor ventilation? Try hanging one of these guys in a corner and see if it helps!





THIS SPREAD: Plants can thrive all over the house—tuck shade-loving plants in corners and on tables and shelves; set sun-loving varieties (of course!) near windows. Home: Sara Toufali and Eddie Dumphy



Plants Need Care

Plants breathe life into spaces because they are indeed alive. And like all living things, they have needs—they can get sick, and yes, they can die. It is sad when a plant dies, but it is also not the end of the world: Compost it. Like anything worthwhile, growing things takes practice and patience.



Here are some general plant care tips to keep in mind:

WELCOME HOME Plants, like people, can get a little stressed when they move to a new home. Give them extra attention after a move, and be patient—they will need some time to acclimate.

SURVIVORS The best plant choices for low-light situations are also good choices if you are a serial plant-killer. The ZZ plant and the snake plant can withstand low light and low water. If you can keep these alive, graduate to a pothos, which tolerates a wide range of light conditions but requires a bit more water. On the other end of the water spectrum is the lucky bamboo, which tolerates low light and lives in water, so . . . you can handle that, right?

WATERING AND DRAINAGE Overwatering a plant can be just as bad as under-watering. One easy way to monitor a plant's water intake is to stick your finger into the soil about an inch deep—if it's dry, the plant is probably thirsty. The leaves of overwatered plants tend to turn yellow, while the leaves of under-watered plants tend to wilt and eventually turn brown. It's best to use pots with drainage and a saucer to collect runoff. Water the

soil until the water begins to drain into the saucer, then stop. Let the water settle for a while, then pour out the excess.

TOO MUCH SUN Plant looking burnt? Do the leaves have faded spots or crispy edges? It may be getting too much sun! Try moving it to a spot that gets less light, or even just pulling it in a bit from the window.

CHANGING CONDITIONS Be aware of changing conditions in your home and how they are affecting your plants. Is it winter and you've got the heat going 24-7? Make sure your plants are not too close to the heating vents. Have you been keeping your windows open recently? Great! Just make sure your plants are cool with it too—cold drafts on most tropical plants will turn the leaves yellow.

TOXICITY Some plants can be toxic if ingested, and can pose a danger especially to frisky felines, mischievous mutts, or curious kids. Play it safe with air plants, succulents, ferns, orchids, peperomia, prayer plants, and spider plants—they are nontoxic if ingested.



THIS SPREAD: The key is to position a plant in the right lighting conditions, and then to observe the plant and listen to its needs. Home: Christina Meneses



RIGHT: Hardy desert plants in a south-facing window with full sun. Home: Justina Blakeney and Jason Rosencrantz



LEFT: Tropical plants (here, pothos) can be set right in an east- or west-facing window, or can be situated farther away, in filtered light. Home: Erin Lucas and Marshall Lake

WHICH PLANT, WHICH WINDOW?

SOUTH

Sun-loving plants such as jade and cacti like to be near south-facing windows (unless you are in the southern hemisphere, that is, in which case recommendations for south- and north-facing windows are reversed). If you've got nice big south-facing windows, plants can even be on the far side of the room and still thrive.



EAST AND WEST

The sun rises in the east and sets in the west, so windows facing these directions get strong light for only part of the day. Try tropical plants, such as philodendrons, dracaenas, Ficus, monstera, yucca, or spider plants. Keep these plants close to the windows so they get enough sunlight, but use sheer window coverings so they don't fry.

NORTH

Plants that don't need a lot of natural light will thrive in a north-facing window. Try the prayer plant or a ponytail palm. Keep plants on the windowsill, hanging from the curtain rod, or close to the window to make sure that they get enough sunlight. The hardy ZZ plant and the snake plant will likely do well even if not situated right next to the window.

TIP: Not sure which direction a window is facing? Download a handy-dandy compass app and discover where your plants will be happiest.



ADOPT AN IDEA

1

VINTAGE AND GREEN

Repurpose vintage drawers and boxes as wall shelves for tchotchkes and small potted plants.

2

CRYSTALS GROW TOO!

Place certain varieties, like quartz, in your planters and get double the good vibes. (Uncover more about crystals in the Crystal Magic section on page 201).

3

GARDEN WINDOW

Why limit garden windows to the kitchen? We love our bedroom garden window!

(TIP: Before you add any plant to a collection, it should be kept separate and monitored for a few weeks to make sure there are no pests that might spread.)

4

BARGAIN HUNTING

Buying large plants from nurseries can be pricey. Check online sites for moving sales. People moving far away usually can't take their large plants with them and are just happy to find their plants a good home. (We got that humongous euphorbia in our living room on Craigslist for a steal. It was a total pain to move but worth every penny.)





HARMONY

Think of a gospel choir. There is a steady rhythm with dynamic, repeated refrains; there's call and response; and there is unexpected syncopation throughout the performance. All of this comes together to create a harmony, not only between the instruments and the choir but among the congregation as well. This is just what happens in a well-styled room—there is a rhythm of decorative elements, an orchestration of texture, pattern, and color that makes your space sing!

DECORATIVE ELEMENTS

Seven decorative elements work together to create harmony: focal points, balance and vertical balance, scale, rhythm, texture, and pattern. Here is a breakdown, and ideas for using their amazing power to transform a space.

Focal Points

Just as an orchestra harmonizes around a soloist's melody, points of focus can help orient a room. Do you have a fireplace? A window with an amazing view? A large antique mirror? A huge painting, print, or plant? Use such statement pieces as a fulcrum upon which to balance other decorative elements.

RIGHT: Let the brilliant colors of focal point art dictate the color palette of the room. Home: Johanna Maska and Henry Jackson

OPPOSITE: Play up the natural focal point of a fireplace with plants, pictures, and styled arrangements. Home: Merissa Libbey and Brian Overend







Balance

A harmonious composition requires balance not only in terms of scale but between the similarity and contrast of shapes, colors, textures, tones, and patterns as well.

Consider the two chairs on the opposite page. One is a turquoise Acapulco chair made of vinyl cord, the other a rattan chair with a chunky ikat cushion. They are similar in scale, but their differences in material, color, texture, pattern, and weight seem a bit too dissonant.

How can we harmonize these chairs with each other and the room? The trick is to add elements to the two chairs that reflect their differences. Here, I added an ikat cushion to the Acapulco chair to reflect the pattern of the armchair cushion. Then I lightened the visual weight of the armchair by replacing its back cushion with a lighter pillow that reflects the color of the Acapulco chair's vinyl cord.

The addition of the gold ottoman and side table helps to anchor the two chairs to the room. Removing the artwork from the right side of the room, while adding more plants to the left, helps make the whole composition feel more balanced.

Vertical Balance

Got a lot of stuff on the floor but the walls are bare? Add art to the walls for balance. The opposite is also true. If you have gallery walls but the furnishings are spare, you might want to add pillows and accessories to keep your space from feeling like a museum.

OPPOSITE, TOP:
This arrangement needs
a little balance.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM:
Pillows (reflecting each
chair) help strike balance.

THIS SPREAD: The wood-paneled wall helps create vertical balance.
Home: Jesse Meighan and Michael France





THIS SPREAD:
The repetition of
colors, patterns, and
plants produces a
harmonious look.
Home: Marisa and
Peter Vitale





Scale

It's best to keep the scale of furniture relative to the size of the room: Furnish a compact room with small pieces and a spacious one with large ones. No surprises there. Large rooms will look less cluttered with furnishings that are to scale, and small rooms (with more diminutive furniture) will have ample space for functionality and flow. Following this suggestion will help you to keep a space functional and harmonious. (The living room on pages 146–147 is just the right size for the large coffee table and sofa—the oversize lamp and plants also help keep everything to scale.)

Rhythm

Establishing a rhythm through repetition of decorative elements can help to harmonize a space. For example, the two matching yellow chairs on the previous spread provide a vibrant accent that feels more pulled together because of the repetition.

Texture

Another way to add visual interest to a room is through contrasting textures (opposite, top). Mix materials—wool with wood, clay with copper, linen with velvet—and begin to see a textural palette emerge that creates variation and contrast through surface texture. For example, a very rustic composition can be made to seem more modern by adding metallic accents, as in my kitchen (opposite, bottom left). This is a particularly useful technique if you are into more subdued color palettes, as in the examples here (opposite, bottom right).



Pattern



RIGHT: Pattern mixing in my dining room with my Aja wallpaper, a chair upholstered in a serape, and Ndebele fertility dolls. The portrait is an unsigned vintage painting I found at a flea market.

Pattern is fun. It's like the crazy tambourine player, who starts dancing on-stage halfway through the song and makes everybody smile.

I spend a good portion of my time designing and collecting prints and patterns for home furnishings, and I can say that, next to plants, using pattern is the easiest way to add personality to a home. Whether by way of rugs, wall coverings, upholstery, textiles, artwork, pillows, or tile, there is so much opportunity to play with pattern.

People always want to know how I make so many patterns work together in a space. The key is to focus on the color, and to use an overarching color palette to tie the different patterns together. If the colors in the patterns harmonize with the color scheme of the room, it is easy to mix them. That's it. It's really that simple.

Covering surfaces with colorful patterned textiles is the fastest and easiest way to completely transform a piece of furniture or a wall! I also get pattern inspiration from some of my friends whose homes are featured here (see their great advice on the following pages).

**Advice on pattern from
EMILY KATZ**

"I am a real kilim-rug lover, and so nearly every room in the house has some kind of patterned rug on the floor. We practice more restraint in our home when it comes to pattern mixing, as I prefer wood, wools, concrete, and handmade objects in sumptuous neutrals to balance out the patterns and bring calm to a space."







Advice on pattern from ERIN LUCAS

"If you buy things you love, they will inherently go together because you love them! They may not all go together in the same room, but a little bit of editing goes a long way." (See opposite page and following spread.)

Advice on pattern from MATTIE KENNARD

"Be fearless. Follow your gut and your eye. Some patterns just jive together without any explanation—and you don't need to justify your pattern mixing to anyone, so go for it! Many times, though, there is a thread that helps marry seemingly disparate patterns. I have a thing for diamonds, and so I'll mix diamonds in different colors, sizes, or iterations, and they speak to one another. Color does that too. Wildly different patterns can dance together if the colors are in step."







THE SUBJECTIVITY OF COLOR

The human eye can detect and distinguish a spectrum of light that reflects off material objects—and somehow, in a way that still mystifies philosophers and scientists (and me!), we each (subjectively) experience this spectrum as color.

In order to curate a harmonious color environment, it is important to note how color can vary radically according to three fundamental factors: physical context, emotional association (feeling, memory), and juxtaposition to other colors within one's field of vision (color schemes).

OPPOSITE: This room functions as a guest room and occasional playroom. The blue can feel playful or relaxing, depending on the accent colors it is paired with (and the mood of the viewer). Home: Johanna Maska and Henry Jackson



Colors in Context

As a designer, a big part of my job is to look at a small swatch of color and guess what it would look like painted on walls, printed on pages, or woven into textiles. And you know something? It's not easy. I can't tell you how many times I have picked out a paint or fabric swatch from a fan deck and had something painted or upholstered only to be completely surprised by the outcome—sometimes in a good way, sometimes not.

There are many contextual factors contributing to this variability of the experience of the color of an object, such as the shape and texture of the object reflecting the light, the object's size and position relative to a perceiver's field of vision, the amount and quality of the light reflecting from the object, as well as its juxtaposition to other colors.

For example, a plum bath mat may look promising under retail lights, quite beautiful in the sun as you walk to your car, but hideous in the context of your blueberry bathroom.

OPPOSITE: Colors are not static. A color printed on paper, for example, can look very different when printed on fabric or painted on a wall.

HOW TO CHOOSE PAINT FINISHES

Context is especially important when choosing paint color: Make sure you test swatches on the wall of the room you want to paint. Let the color sit there for a day or two and assess it at different times of day. How does it look in daylight? How does it look at night, under artificial light?



FLAT Flat paint looks soft and matte, even chalky. It is harder to wash and not very resistant to moisture, so it's not a good choice for kitchens or bathrooms. Use matte paint in other areas of the home to get that beautiful old and weathered look.

EGGSHELL Viewed straight-on, this finish doesn't have much of a sheen, but when viewed from an angle it reflects a bit more light than a matte finish. Eggshell is a good choice if you want the look of flat, but need more resistance to stains or moisture.

PEARL OR SATIN Shiny but not glossy; good for high-traffic areas.

SEMIGLOSS A semigloss finish is stain- and mark-resistant, easy to clean, and a good choice for doors, windows, cabinets, and trim.

GLOSS OR HIGH GLOSS A very shiny and reflective finish, good for making a statement. Sometimes I use it to paint old furniture to give it a sheen, but like semigloss, it is mostly used for doors, windows, cabinets, and trim. It is the easiest to clean, but because of its high reflectivity, it magnifies even small imperfections.

GOOD TO KNOW Hue is another word for color; tint is color to which white has been added; value is the relative lightness or darkness of a color; shade is color to which black has been added. (And throwing shade is talking smack about someone.☺)



Color, Feeling, and Memory

Colors have emotional impact. They affect our moods, as well as how a room functions and feels. Colors can make spaces feel larger or smaller, warmer or cooler, open or closed, romantic or professional, fun, somber, lively, or peaceful.

There is a history of theorizing about the meaning and emotional effect of various colors that dates back at least to Goethe's Theory of Colors of 1810, but there is no scientific consensus or common agreement relating specific colors to specific meanings or emotions.

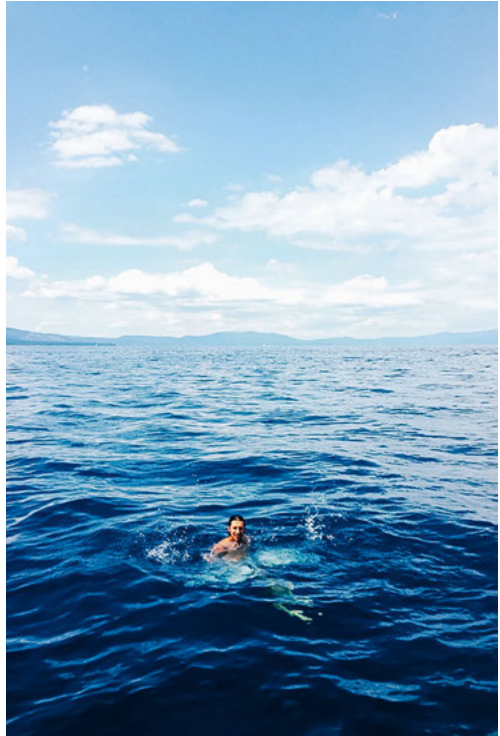
So let's do a little exercise to discover what meanings and emotions you associate with various colors. Look at the colors, opposite, and write down some adjectives that come to mind.

As you begin to make color choices for your space, refer back to these adjectives to make sure you are cultivating the right emotional environment.

Another way to think about the meaning various colors have for you is to think back to particularly happy or memorable events in your life. What colors do you associate with those experiences? For example, we spent a few hours on a boat out in Lake Tahoe a couple of years ago, and the feeling of being surrounded by that cool, incomparably deep blue water stuck with me. I feel invigorated just thinking about it now, and seeing the color is a little bit like diving into that magnificent lake once again.

OPPOSITE: The meaning and emotional effect of colors alters with history, culture, language, gender, age, and personal experiences.





THIS SPREAD: Color can take you back to happy memories: It is no coincidence that we chose deep blue for our bathroom tile. It reminds us of Lake Tahoe. (That's my husband, Jason, in the vacation picture above.)

CHOOSING A COLOR SCHEME

Let's start by choosing a single color for the color scheme of your room. This will be the dominant color. (Don't worry, you can always decide to change this color as you experiment with possibilities!)

Think about the intentions you formed for the room, the adjectives you assigned to the various colors, and the spirit plants, animals, and environments you chose. Are these elements starting to come together to suggest a dominant color for the room?

Once you have chosen a color to play with, it will be necessary to consider how this dominant color will relate to the other colors in the space. One of the easiest and most effective tools for investigating color relationships and choosing color schemes is the good old tried-and-true color wheel you first learned about in grade school. So go ahead, spin that wheel and experiment with color schemes.



Analogous Color Scheme

This scheme uses colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. They are friendly neighbors and don't exhibit a lot of contrast or drama, like green and turquoise.



Complementary Color Scheme

Colors on opposite sides of the color wheel are called complementary colors, and they pop when contrasted with each other, like the red chairs and green accents below.



Triadic Color Scheme

This color scheme is shaped like an equilateral triangle and can be very vibrant, think red, blue and yellow—note the blue sofa, red rug, and yellow throw in this room.







OPPOSITE AND ABOVE: One room, two color schemes. The same space is warmed up with textiles in reds and oranges, and cooled down with blues and greens. Which color story speaks to you? Home: Erin Lucas and Marshall Lake





THIS SPREAD AND FOLLOWING SPREAD: Paint is probably the easiest way to dramatically change the look and feel of a room with low cost and a little time commitment. When testing paint colors on your walls, try using paintable clear films (available at your local paint or hardware store). They allow you to test the paint colors and put them on different walls (to see how the colors change in different light—all before you actually paint).





HOW TO STYLE A VIGNETTE

Vignettes are an easy way to make your home look and feel more pulled together without spending any money. First, collect any items that you think could work well for styling. These can be anything: books, vases, tchotchkes, plants, baskets, ceramics, trays, painted canvases, globes, and so on. If you like it, if it speaks to you, and if it fits on a dresser, you can use it. Once you've collected everything, sort objects by color. Brown things go with other brown things; anything that's red goes with other red pieces, et cetera. Once you have your prop table ready, follow the styling tips opposite for any flat surface: bookshelves, consoles, coffee tables, dresser tops, credenzas, mantels, and more.



DIVERSITY IS GOOD. When placing items together, think of diversity of shape and size. You need an alto, a soprano, and a bass voice to have a song sound rich; styling a vignette is the same.

FILL UP THE SPACE you have with at least one item—if you’re styling a bookshelf, for example, use at least one tall item that almost reaches the bottom of the next shelf. This will help to fill the space visually.

GROUP ITEMS TOGETHER in odd numbers. That makes things appear to be more balanced since you’ll have one item in the middle and an even number of items on either side.

CREATE VISUAL INTEREST with contrasting shapes: Pair bulky items with slender items to balance out the look.

CONSIDER COLOR while creating vignettes. You can group items together by color. Bright colors read as “heavy” and colors that are lighter are, well, lighter, so consider which colors are sitting next to each other to create a balanced look. Pair brights with brights, subdued hues with other subdued hues.

USE REPETITION to create calm. A trio of identical or similar vases placed in a row can be very pleasing to the viewer.

CONSIDER AN ANCHOR PIECE. Just as a room works well with a focal point to ground it, sometimes a vignette works best with one large piece to attract attention; for me this is usually a piece of art hung on or leaning against a wall.

USE PLANTS AND FLOWERS to breathe life (and color!) into your vignettes.





1



2



3



4

ADOPT AN IDEA

1

A KITCHEN KILIM

Living in a rental with a whole lotta white? A colorful vintage kilim rug will bring harmony to the entire space—even the kitchen.

To wash your kilim, bring it outside. Dilute all-natural soap with water in a spray bottle and spray it all over. Then hose it down and dry flat in a place where the water can drain out of it. (If the rug sits in water the colors may bleed.)

2

A SPOT OF COLOR

You don't have to paint an entire wall to add color to your space. Try painting a shelf and a spot on the wall the same color to add a fun vignette and a small colorful moment with big impact.

3

IMAGES OF HARMONY

Surrounding yourself with harmonious imagery can be uplifting and have a positive effect on well-being.

4

MUSIC

What is a home without music? Keep instruments in arm's reach. Display a selection of records and a record player or install Bluetooth speakers in strategic areas of your home. Think about the soundtrack of your home and what kind of music you want to fill the space with to keep it harmonious.





PART II





DECOR MAGIC

It takes a community to make magic. In the pages that follow, I have invited some members of my creative community to share decorating (and life) wisdom—from the four elements of astrology and the principles of feng shui to the simple magic of using crystals, flowers, and textiles to make every part of your home even more creative, unique, and extraordinary.

THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF ASTROLOGY

Need inspiration? Try thinking about home decor choices through the lens of the zodiac! Here are the Astrotwins, Tali and Ophira Edut, to break it down for you.

Astrotwins, Tali and Ophira Edut

The twelve signs of the zodiac are divided into four elements based on the natural world:

Fire: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius

Earth: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn

Air: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius

Water: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

While there's a good chance you'll identify with the element of your sun sign, your full astrological chart, based on the position of the planets when you were born, may tell a different story. For example, your sun sign might be fiery Aries but with many other planets in watery Pisces, drawing you toward a more soothing style. Or you could be an earthy Capricorn with lots of eclectic Sagittarius and Aquarius influences. Your tastes can also be heavily influenced by your moon sign (emotions and home), your Venus sign (style and decor), and your rising sign (your appearance). (You can do your full chart for free at [Astrostyle.com](https://astrostyle.com) to find out.)



Fire



Earth



Air



Water

Fire

Loud, proud, and not afraid to clash, fire energy wakes you up with a playful and eclectic jumble of patterns, vibrant colors, and found objects. Like that loud but lovable friend, fire is always “too much”—but without its presence, the room feels cold and empty. Fire can spread, so this style pulls from global influences. Warning: Too much fire can toe the line between transcendent and tacky. Resist the temptation to put every tchotchke on display.



Earth

Get low . . . to the ground, that is. This timeless anchoring style creates a sense of security with lots of wood, heavy furniture, and warm throws. It invites you to sit down, sink in, and stay an eon or two. The earth vibe is grand yet tastefully done, with only a few thoughtfully chosen pieces on display and everything else somehow stashed away. An excessive earth vibe can feel too planned and uptight. Done right, it feels like a warm and grown-up home.



Air

The air element brings a cleaner, more modern and minimalist style that's easy on the eyes (though not always the most comfortable for sitting and sleeping). Air needs constant circulation, so this element favors lightweight furniture, sculptural pieces, hanging plants, tons of natural light, and a spacious, breezy flow. This style always begins with a clean white canvas. Caution: An overly sparse air vibe can feel like a modern art gallery instead of a home. Add a pop of citrus (or muted hues such as mustard, olive, and burnt orange) as well as playful shapes to keep the space from becoming sterile.



Water

All aboard the boho caravan! Sentimental water vibes invite you to ignore linear time and get lost drawing, dreaming, or DIY-ing (like your favorite nook at Grandma's, where you'd dress up in her clothes and steal away to read a faded old book). It's vintage and midcentury modern furniture layered with handmade blankets or crochet cozies. Bed, bath, and books are the holy trinity—and the kitchen is a hot spot too. Too much water can get stagnant, though. This vibe can feel dated or like a random antiques seller's stall. Try grouping collections into zones to create a little order.



If you're looking for a good jumping-off place for choosing colors, the Astrotwins have created this guide for different areas of your life based on your star sign.

ARIES

Relaxation: Sand
Creativity: Crimson red
Vitality: Violet
Romance: Flame orange
Socializing: Sunshine yellow
Productivity: Terra-cotta
Well-being/health/healing:
Leaf green

TAURUS

Relaxation: Teakwood
Creativity: Emerald green
Vitality: Cinnamon
Romance: Merlot
Socializing: Gold
Productivity: Sage green
Well-being/health/healing: Cream

GEMINI

Relaxation: Onyx
Creativity: Shibori blue
Vitality: Pale amethyst
Romance: Vibrant violet
Socializing: Tangerine
Productivity: Coffee bean
Well-being/health/healing:
Honeydew

CANCER

Relaxation: Silver
Creativity: Coral
Vitality: Caribbean aquamarine
Romance: Pearl white
Socializing: Tea-rose pink
Productivity: Dark teal
Well-being/health/healing: Light sky

LEO

Relaxation: Jungle green
Creativity: Sunflower yellow
Vitality: Electric tangerine
Romance: Royal purple
Socializing: Lime
Productivity: Gold
Well-being/health/healing:
Mahogany

VIRGO

Relaxation: Buttercream yellow
Creativity: Cornflower blue
Vitality: Spring green
Romance: Peony pink
Socializing: Fuchsia
Productivity: Gunmetal gray
Well-being/health/healing:
Porcelain white

LIBRA

Relaxation: Chocolate brown
Creativity: Teal
Vitality: Fire orange
Romance: Petal pink
Socializing: Merlot
Productivity: Rose gold
Well-being/health/healing: Nude

SCORPIO

Relaxation: Midnight blue
Creativity: Hot pink
Vitality: Blush
Romance: Smoke
Socializing: Ruby red
Productivity: Ebony
Well-being/health/healing:
Pearl white

SAGITTARIUS

Relaxation: Pale peach
Creativity: Vibrant violet
Vitality: Lime green
Romance: Neon pink
Socializing: Melon
Productivity: Turquoise blue
Well-being/health/healing:
Olive green

CAPRICORN

Relaxation: Mushroom
Creativity: Eggplant
Vitality: Bone
Romance: Pumpkin orange
Socializing: Bronze
Productivity: Charcoal gray
Well-being/health/healing:
Forest green

AQUARIUS

Relaxation: Gunmetal gray
Creativity: Cobalt blue
Vitality: Amethyst
Romance: Neon yellow
Socializing: Mint green
Productivity: Tangerine
Well-being/health/healing: Pale pink

PISCES

Relaxation: Lavender
Creativity: Silver
Vitality: Dark amethyst
Romance: Ballet-slipper pink
Socializing: Sky blue
Productivity: Steel gray
Well-being/health/healing:
Sea green



FENG SHUI

I first met Rafi Kalichstein at a trade show, and his energy immediately drew me in. You know those people who have the ability to make you feel both excited and calm all at once? I knew he was a very talented designer, but when I learned that he worked in Eastern healing and was also a certified practitioner of Black Hat *Feng Shui*, it made perfect sense.

I have invited Rafi to share tips on how you can incorporate some *feng shui* principles into your home.

Rafi Kalichstein, Principal at FORM Design Studio and *feng shui* practitioner

Literally translated as “wind-water,” *feng shui* is a practice developed over millennia dealing with the interaction between a person and her environment.

When people ask me questions about *feng shui*, looking for bite-size bits of information, I usually reply, “How far down the rabbit hole would you like to go?” The more you practice *feng shui*, the more its principles will run in the background of your creative process—a bit like an app running in the background of a smartphone.

The following tips should be understood as an amuse-bouche, something to whet your appetite with a few effective ways you can incorporate the principles of feng shui into your life and space.

HEALTHY FLOW

One of the guiding principles of my practice is this: Movement is synonymous with health. If a patient's blood is not flowing properly through her body, for example—low blood pressure, high blood pressure, or a blood clot—she has what we might call “dis-ease” in her system. This point can be generalized to any human function, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—any hindrance in movement amounts to dis-ease. So think of all the parts of your home that have a clear function: doors, windows, hallways, drains, appliances. Make sure that function can be fully expressed. Drains, for example, should drain quickly and easily. If there is a system in your home that is not performing its function as a result of disrepair, get it fixed. On the other hand, there is no need to search for problems where there are none—if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

THE COMMAND POSITION

Positioning your village with a mountain at your back and the main approach in clear view will serve you well when defending against marauders. This position is called the command position. You may not be defending against marauders in your own home (I have not been to your home, so I will not presume!), but the concept of the command position can still serve to help organize your space so that it feels good and safe. In an office, for example, position your desk so that you face the door when sitting down to work. In the bedroom, if you are able, push the bed against a wall and orient the foot of the bed toward the entry to the room, with a clear view of the door, but not directly in line with it. Try applying this principle to other rooms as well.

OBJET D'AMOUR

If you are looking for a boost in your love life, no matter if you are married, committed, or single and on the prowl, gather objects that are pink or red and have phallic or yonic shapes (which are everywhere, once you start looking). Try to find a pair of objects (or an object that symbolizes the number two). Place them in the back right corner of your bedroom relative to the entrance, which will land on a nightstand if you have the bed in the command position. Or you could simply hide something pink or red under your mattress. Catching a glimpse of these objects or just knowing they are there will likely put Mona Lisa's smile on your face the next time you find yourself *à deux*.

BOOT THE TUBE

You may not like to hear this, but sometimes tough love is necessary—make sure you do not have a television in your bedroom. (If you absolutely must, as in “my marriage will not survive,” at least put it in a cabinet behind closed doors.) Not only can the energy of the screen disrupt your sleep, but you may also be too distracted from the main event, i.e., your partner (or partners; mine is not to judge).

MIRROR, MIRROR, OFF THE WALL

Be conservative with the use of mirrors in the master bedroom. Mirrors reflect movement and amplify energy, which can disrupt sleep. (A down-the-rabbit-hole explanation is that sleep is a yin activity, but mirrors bring yang energy into your room.)

UP, UP, AND AWAY

Try not to store things on the floor. Traditionally, this applies especially to vessels containing money, but, in my opinion, it also applies to anything you own. Not only does the clutter give rise to confusion, it also devalues the thing you put on the floor and, in turn, devalues you. So avoid storing things under beds, sofas, desks, and tables.

WEEKLY RESET BUTTON

Develop a weekly ritual to put things back where they belong so that the chaos of your life has a scheduled reset button. This will take the pressure off trying to keep everything in order all the time. This practice does not need to be a chore. Incorporate music, wine, incense, snacks—whatever puts you in a great head space—and set yourself up for a week of success by putting your home in order. You may find a great deal of relief. When you know that your space is always at the ready, you will have the freedom to be spontaneous in every other aspect of your life. Make room for the richness you hope to attract!

THE RED ENVELOPE

This tip transcends the realm of feng shui, and even the home. In many Eastern philosophical teachings, money exchanged for goods or services is remitted in a red envelope. Not only does this tradition come with the benefit of warding off evil spirits and bringing about good fortune, but it also ensures clear and intentional exchange.

BALANCE

In the spirit of this tradition, I advise that you maintain a full wardrobe of stationery—particularly thank-you notes. If you don't have them on hand, you will not be prepared to thank someone for a kindness, a gift, a referral. . . . If you are not ready to be thankful, you will not draw events worthy of gratitude to your life. Be prepared.

IT DON'T MEAN A THING

IF IT DON'T MEAN A THING

You may already have trinkets and talismans placed in key spots around your home. Ask yourself if you feel connected to those things, and if they serve a part of your intention for yourself and your home. At its very best, feng shui can help you address chronic conditions, achieve your goals, and make your journey more fruitful and joyous. When used glibly or blindly, on the other hand, it devolves into nothing more than superstition. This tip is simple: If it is not meaningful to you, don't do it. It is your home and it should reflect you, honestly.



CRYSTAL MAGIC

I met Vanessa Knight from Able Ground, our house crystal specialist, through the magical powers of Instagram. Her intoxicating images of crystals always draw me in and transport me to another place—perhaps even another planet! I have asked her to share her top crystals for the home, as well as some tips on where to place them. Happy crystal-magic vibes!

Crystal magic practitioner, **Vanessa Knight**

Here are some suggestions for how to use crystals and where to place them in your home, but the key is: Do what feels right to you! Move them around and see what feels good. Pick them up when they call out to you. Create crystal altars that combine crystals, plants, and other natural materials. They serve as serene places in the home intended for reflection and meditation. Some people like to keep their crystals on the windowsill to both catch the light and charge in the sun and the moon, although beware that translucent, colorful crystals such as amethyst, celestite, and citrine will fade in the sun over time. Placing calming crystals on a bedside table is always a good idea, as they will go to work while you sleep. All in all, wherever feels right to you is the right place to put your crystal!

CRYSTAL CLEANSING

Crystals are powerful energy absorbers, and many people believe that they should be cleansed from time to time. If you fall into that camp, any smooth, polished stone can be placed in a clean water bath overnight. Since quartz is such a powerful energy cleanser and regulator, you can also place your crystal on top of a quartz cluster for a day or two and it will be brought back into balance. Lastly, you can always put your crystal back into the earth to cleanse and recharge. The longer you leave it in there, the better!

Amethyst

Historically and mythically, amethyst has been used to ward off intoxication, overindulgence, and greed. Its soothing energy calms the mind, so when yoga, exercise, time with friends, or other self-care activities aren't working to keep those cravings or obsessive thoughts at bay, you may want to spend some time with amethyst. Keep some amethyst by your bedside and it will chill you out, sing you a sweet lullaby, and even enhance memory and understanding of your dreams. You'll wake up refreshed and with a renewed sense of purpose!



Apophyllite

Apophyllite is widely known as the “stone of light,” infusing both you and your surroundings with that spiritual glow. But that is not all: Apophyllite knows you have some work to do, and it will help you truly look at your behavior from a place of love and understanding. All that recognition is going to help you move toward true self-acceptance and give you the confidence to show that to the world. Apophyllite wants you to shine as brightly as its beautiful clear points! Keep a piece in the entryway to your home, and it will work a double shift, boosting and grounding your sense of self as you step out into the world and lifting your energy as you come back into your home after a long day.



Celestite

When you look at a piece of blue-gray celestite, you'll immediately notice and feel its loving and calming vibrations. Spend some more time with this mineral and you'll learn why it's widely known as the "speaker's stone." Celestite will help you think and speak more clearly, figure out how to express your creativity, and be your overall wing-woman for open and loving communication. This is the perfect stone to empower you to go out and say what you have to say, have those conversations you need to have, and speak your truth lovingly and confidently! Place a piece of celestite in any area where a lot of communication happens. That could be the kitchen, the living room, or even the conference room.



Fluorite

Fluorite is the best crystal to use to untangle your mind. When feelings seem to be spinning out of control or when you've been walking around in a fog for days, fluorite will usher in some much-needed clarity and stability by allowing you to rapidly organize and process the information swimming around in your mind. This calming stone helps connect your mind to your heart, bringing feelings into focus and to the surface for some deep and truthful examination. Spend some time with fluorite and you'll be strutting around with newfound self-confidence and an understanding of the way your mind and emotions affect your life. And to boot, fluorite is believed to absorb electromagnetic stress, like that from a computer. This is the perfect crystal to place in an office, on a desk, next to a computer, or anywhere you do a lot of thinking and planning.



Labradorite

Just gaze into a piece of iridescent labradorite and you will see that it is a mystical stone. Pure magic and deep spiritual understanding are already inside of you! Labradorite will help you tap into them by bringing ideas and messages forward from the unconscious and allow you to examine and understand their meanings. Holding on to past disappointments or traumas? Labradorite is also a great tool to help you get rid of those feelings that have been stored in your muscles and bones and in the deep recesses of your mind. If you're going through some big changes or thinking about making big changes, labradorite will be a great friend to you—allowing you to see the truth behind your actions, enhancing your imagination, and boosting your strength and will to change. Place a piece of labradorite anywhere in your home where you relax deeply, like your bedroom, and allow it to go to work as you unwind from the day.



Pyrite

Pyrite gets its name from the Greek word for “of fire” and interacts strongly with your solar plexus chakra, which is located right below the navel and represents your right to act. Ever heard the saying “fire in your belly” to mean a powerful sense of ambition or determination? Well, pyrite is there for you for some big picture manifestation, helping to resolve any feelings of inadequacy and instead envision and attain your greatest dreams! Pyrite is not only for those big picture manifestations; it’s also helpful for completing daily projects: those emails you need to go through, that weaving project you feel stuck on, that paper you need to write. Keep a piece of pyrite by your desk and conquer that to-do list!



Quartz

Quartz is like the spiritual healer Amma: one hug from this mineral and you will feel complete and in balance. It has the ability to store, absorb, regulate, and release energy both within itself and within any energy field that it comes in contact with. It is even believed that holding a piece of quartz crystal in your hand doubles your biomagnetic field! Quartz is the crystal that is constantly working away, cleansing and regulating the energy around it—the energy of you, your pets, your plants, and even your other crystals. That means the more quartz the better! Create a crystal garden of plants and quartz, have a piece of quartz as the centerpiece to your crystal collection, or keep a piece in your pocket or on your bedside table and watch the energy shift.



Rose Quartz

Stretch your heart wide open with rose quartz, the “stone of love”! If you’re rusty in the love zone or feeling closed off at the moment, rose quartz may be the key to your own heart. It’s widely believed to help with healing and bringing peace to existing relationships, fostering trust and unconditional love both within yourself and the important loves of your life. Hold a piece of rose quartz in your hand and you will clearly feel this soothing, reassuring, loving energy. Place a piece of rose quartz by your bed or place two pieces in the relationship corner of your home (back right, according to feng shui principles) to attract a loving mate into your life!





FLOWER MAGIC

Flowers are magic. To bring a blooming bouquet onto a bookshelf, dining table, or bedside table is to add pops of color, life, whimsy, diverse textures, and a finishing touch to a room. I have worked with floral designer Kelly Cuadra for many years now (she even did the flowers for my wedding!) and her arrangements are always gorgeously loose, unexpected, and abundant. I have gleaned so many ideas from watching her work over the years that help to make even my grocery-store flowers look incredible. On the next page, she shares some tips and some beautiful flower arrangement ideas.

Likewise, I first met Katie Hess, the founder of Lotus Wei, several years ago when she took one of my workshops. She is the kind of person who, when you are around her, gives you the feeling that she might be magic.

Katie is a flower alchemist, and Lotus Wei is one of the world's leading floral apothecaries.

She gifted me a few of her healing flower elixirs, and I've been hooked ever since. (Her Infinite Love potion is a personal favorite.) She sells her magic potions worldwide to critical acclaim. See her flower-elixir recipes starting on page 214.



TEN FLORAL ARRANGING TIPS

from floral designer Kelly Cuadra

- 1** Once you bring flowers home from the market or from foraging in your neighborhood, immediately cut each stem at an angle with pruning shears or a knife.
- 2** Remove extra leaves from the lower part of the stem, leaving some near the bloom so the nutrients in the stem feed the bloom.
- 3** Before you start, examine your vessel of choice—I prefer to use opaque vases instead of glass. They hide messy stems and mechanics and usually complement the flowers rather than compete with them.
- 4** Use tape or foam: Floral tape is great for making a grid on vases to keep stems where you want them. Floral foam is essential for holding flowers in place in wide-mouthed containers.
- 5** Build your foundation of the arrangement. Select the four or five strongest stems to provide structure to the arrangement and establish its basic geometry. It also helps you guess the finished size in relation to the vessel. Generally the tallest stem should be about one and a half times the height of the vase. Mimic the randomness of nature. Think asymmetry, odd numbers, and varied depth and height when arranging.

6 Take a step back every few minutes as you are adding flowers to view your arrangement as a whole, for composition.

7 Pick your showstoppers—nestle your most visually dominant flowers among your strong stems. Avoid placing these floral stars dead center; position slightly to one side or another. Fill in gaps with a more petite branch, berry, or flower.

8 Weave in delicate elements, like vines or ferns, in three strategic spots: up high on one side, down low, and in the middle, as if they've pushed their way through a cluster of larger blooms.

9 When finished, adjust the lengths, tucking some flowers deeper and pulling others long. This creates movement and gives the eye plenty to look at.

10 Most of all, take your time, have fun, and just experiment until it looks good, but know when to stop!





VITALITY ELIXIR

10 drops grapefruit essential oil

10 drops sweet orange essential oil

5 drops rosemary essential oil

Optional: 5 drops Radiant Energy flower elixir

Hit the refresh button with a splash of mentally clarifying, revitalizing rosemary, added to energizing grapefruit and joy-inducing sweet orange.

Grapefruit stimulates the immune system, metabolism, and natural energy stores, and alleviates sluggishness, sugar cravings, and even hangovers.

Anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, and antidepressant, sweet orange oil has been used for thousands of years in Asia and the Mediterranean to help the body eliminate toxins and boost circulation.

Rosemary was a personal favorite of famous sixteenth-century physician and botanist Paracelsus because of its ability to strengthen the entire body while promoting mental clarity and sharpening memory.



RELAXATION ELIXIR

- 15 drops sweet orange essential oil
- 5 drops lavender essential oil
- 5 drops rose essential oil/absolute
- Optional: 5 drops Inner Peace flower elixir

Take a deep breath and soothe your nerves with a bit of calming lavender, comforting sweet orange, and muscle-relaxing rose.

Sweet orange relieves anxiety and irritation and promotes feelings of warmth and happiness.

Lavender oil soothes headaches and helps us fall asleep faster and experience sounder sleep.

Rose is an antidepressant, nervine, and antispasmodic, relaxing muscles and providing relief from cramps while soothing the nervous system.





Textile Treasury and Symbols



TEXTILE TREASURY

One of my earliest textile-related memories is of a family trip to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, when I was ten years old. We visited a batik factory and watched the process of wax-resist dyeing. I was mesmerized by the artisans and their colorful patterns; each textile seemed to tell a story.

On that trip my textile collection began. Textiles were always the easiest thing to fold into my suitcases coming home from places like Istanbul, Naples, Marrakech, and Baja, California. When I got home I'd use the textiles to adorn everything from windows to pillows, beds, tables, chairs, and sofas, and it would instantly (and easily) change up the look of my space. Textiles can do so much to add personality and warmth.

While studying world arts and cultures at UCLA, I got to take a closer look at some of my favorite textiles. I learned that most artisan-made textiles are about more than their practical function. Textiles are often woven with meaning: They don familial and/or tribal symbols and are used as dowries and protectors. Oftentimes, the craft of weaving is integral to bonding rituals and rites of passage. Love textiles as much as I do? Cross-reference any textiles you have (or plan to add to your collection) with our symbol reference on pages 244–245 and see if you can identify any of the motifs! What stories are woven into your treasures?

As much as I love to travel and hunt for textiles in their countries of origin, these days I do much of my collecting from local flea markets or even my sofa—eBay and Etsy are great resources for affordable textiles from all over the world. Opening up a kraft-paper-wrapped suzani shipped directly from Uzbekistan via eBay will work just fine if a trip isn't in your near future.

In the following pages I have unearthed my textile collection for you, providing you with a bit of background on each type of textile and sharing the search terms I use when looking for these pieces. While this is just a small sample of the types of incredible textiles the world has to offer, my hope is that these pieces are a good jumping-off place for you to start your own textile treasury.

BOGOLANFINI

Bogolanfini (also known as mud cloth) is a handmade cotton fabric from Mali, made up of narrow strips that are stitched together into a whole cloth, then dyed using a process of iron-rich mud (aged up to a year) and natural dyes/bleaches.

In traditional Malian culture, bogolanfini is worn as camouflage by hunters or by menstruating women (or anyone who may be experiencing a loss of blood). It is believed that evil spirits will be disoriented by the patterns and the tight weave of the cloth and therefore protect the person wearing the cloth.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

bogolanfini, mudcloth, mud cloth



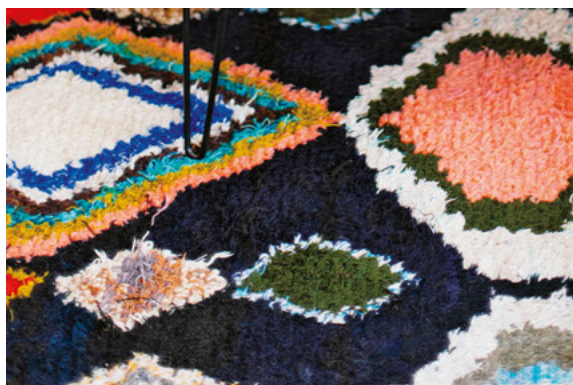


BOUCHEROUITE

Boucherouite are colorful rugs made out of (mostly) cotton and nylon fabric scraps or rags. The rugs are hand-loomed by women in remote Moroccan Berber tribes, around cities like Marrakech, Beni Mellal, and Azilal. They are often characterized by bright, geometric motifs.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

boucherouite, boucharweit, boucharwit, Moroccan rag rug, Azilal rugs, Berber rag rug



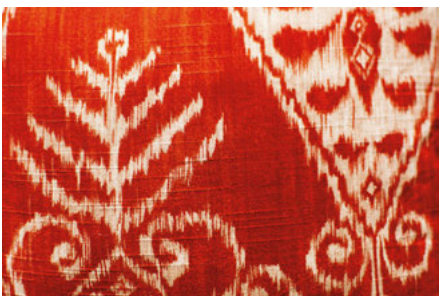


IKAT

Ikat is a dyeing technique that resist-dyes the yarns prior to weaving the fabric. Ikat is produced around the world, from India to Central Asia, Southeast Asia, Japan, Africa, and Latin America.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

ikat, ikkat, kasuri (the Japanese name)





AFRICAN INDIGO

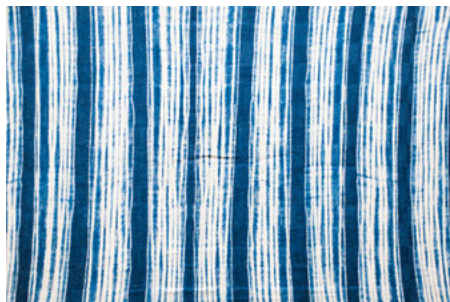
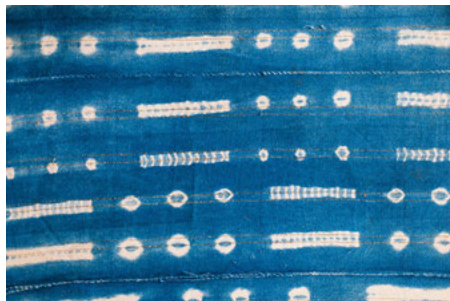
The *Indigofera arrecta* plant is cultivated in Southern and Eastern Africa, and the *Lonchocarpus cyanescens* plant is grown in West Africa. They are used to make indigo dye.

Many different cultures in Africa have traditions of stitching together cotton, silk, and grass cloths and indigo-dyeing them using a variety of dye-resist techniques.

The tied-resist and ikat cloths of the Yoruba and the stitched-resist cloths from Mali are just a couple of examples. Many dyeing methods are used, including folded-resist, batik, starch-resist, and tie-dye.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

resist-dyed indigo, indigo Mali, Dogon indigo, Burkina Faso indigo, Mossi cloth





KANTHA

Kantha is embroidered cloth from eastern South Asia, especially Bangladesh and parts of West Bengal and Odisha. *Kantha* means “rags” in Sanskrit—kantha cloth is often made up of discarded garments.

In Odisha, old saris are stacked on each other and hand-stitched (most often a running stitch, but a variety of stitches/motifs are used) to make a thin piece of cushion.

For centuries, the techniques of kantha have been passed down from mother to daughter: The women would sign their pieces, either with their name or by indicating their relationship with the person for whom the kantha is intended.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

Kantha, Kantha Quilt, Vintage Kantha, Gudri, Gudari





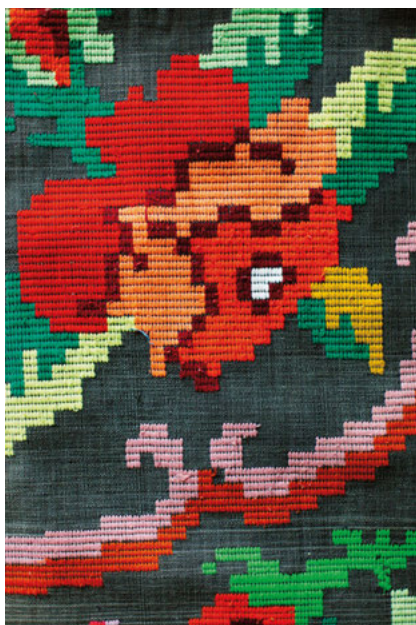
KILIM

Kilim is a flat-weave textile made in parts of Turkey, North Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Central Asia, and China. Kilim pieces are used as wall hangings, prayer rugs, horse saddles, bedding, and floor coverings.

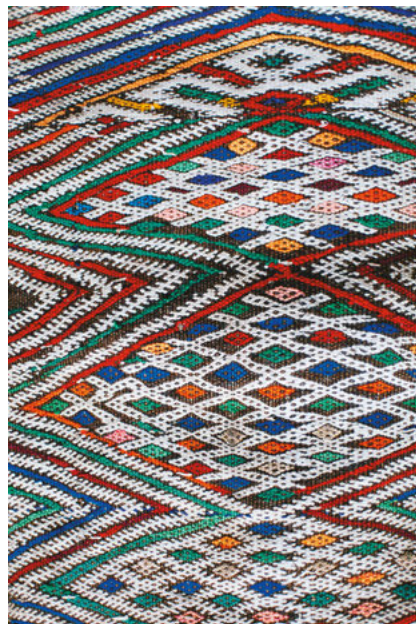
Kilims can include a wealth of motifs, among them those that historically represent protection of their families' flocks from wolves, safety from the sting of the scorpion or from the evil eye, fertility, good luck, happiness, and more.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

kilim, kelim, Anatolian rug, vintage flat weave







Consult the Symbols glossary on pages 244–245 to uncover some of the symbols you may find in your rugs and pillows.



HANDIRA

Moroccan wedding blankets, also known as handira (Arabic) or tamizart (Berber), are hand-woven on looms out of sheep's wool, cotton, and linen by the bride's female relatives in anticipation of a wedding.

The process of hand-weaving infuses the blanket with blessings, and when complete, it is not only functional and beautiful but is a symbol of fertility and good luck. In Berber tradition, after a wedding ceremony, the bride wears the blanket tied around her neck like a warm cape or coat. The hundreds of mirrored sequins sewn onto the blanket are considered protectors and ward off the evil eye.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

Moroccan wedding blanket, handira, tamizart





OTOMI EMBROIDERY

Otomi textiles made by the Otomi people from Hidalgo, Mexico, are hand-embroidered onto existing fabrics (usually muslin) in often brightly colored motifs. Images of animals and plants are very common, as are abstract geometric patterns.

This style of embroidery can be traced back to pre-Aztec Mesoamerica. Traditional designs featured on Otomi textiles are said to originate from prehistoric wall paintings located in the Tenango de Doria region and represent people living in harmony with the natural environment.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

Otomi, Tenango





SUZANI

Suzani is an embroidered textile made in Central Asia, and traditionally made in the Uzbek and Tajik regions by brides-to-be and their families to decorate the nuptial beds.

The word "suzani" comes from *suzan*, the Farsi word for "needle." Suzanis often contain motifs of pomegranates (fertility), birds (happiness), flowers, moons, suns, and sometimes bear embroidered well-wishes. The borders on the textiles serve as a protective device to ward off bad spirits.

You can often find a small deliberate fault or unfinished area; the fault is a reminder that we are all flawed, and the unfinished area expresses the dream of the mother that her daughter may continue in the art of suzani creation.

🔍 SEARCH TERMS

suzani, Samarkand, Uzbek suzani, suzni





SYMBOLS

All around the world, different cultures attribute meaning to different symbols. People wear these symbols as amulets, weave them into textiles, and hang them on their walls in order to protect and bring fertility, strength, and abundance to themselves, their families, their rituals, and their homes.

When bringing home talismans or textiles, keep an eye out for the following symbols; they may be working to ward off the evil eye or to help you get pregnant!



BELL

Symbolizes: Fertility

Origin: India



BIRD

Symbolizes: Positivity

Origin: Morocco



EYE

Symbolizes: Protection against the evil eye

Origin: Morocco



EYE

Symbolizes: Protection against the evil eye

Origin: Morocco



EYE

Symbolizes: Protection against the evil eye

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey



EYE

Symbolizes: Protection against the evil eye

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey



EYE

Symbolizes: Protection against the evil eye

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey



EYE

Symbolizes: The cosmos

Origin: Ghana



FROG

Symbolizes: Fertility and magical rites

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey, Morocco



GRAIN

Symbolizes: Abundance

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey



FLUTE PLAYER

Symbolizes: Fertility

Origin: Some Native American cultures in the Southwestern US



LOTUS FLOWER

Symbolizes: Beauty, prosperity, and fertility

Origin: India



POMEGRANATE

Symbolizes: Fertility, abundance

Origin: Many cultures around the world



SEA TURTLE

Symbolizes: Protection, fertility, Mother Earth

Origin: Native American (including Iroquois and Lenape)



SEED

Symbolizes: Fertility, abundance

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey



TREE

Symbolizes: Tree of life

Origin: Persia/Iran



TURTLE

Symbolizes: Adaptability

Origin: Ghana



RAM'S HORN + HANDS ON HIPS (BEREKET)

Symbolizes: Fertility, man and woman

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey



STAR

Symbolizes: Protection against the evil eye

Origin: Anatolia/Turkey



NEW BOHEMIANS

In the following pages you will meet the families and contributors whose homes appear in the book. Each family shares a few thoughts on Bohemianism and what it means to them.



PAGES: 14, 24, 25, 37, 40, 57, 63, 68, 70, 80, 111, 122, 127, 129, 136, 138, 140, 151, 152, 166–67, 174, 180, 184, 194, 222

**JUSTINA BLAKENEY, JASON ROSENCRANTZ,
DAUGHTER IDA, and KITTY LUDA**

Designer, artist, Aries | Jack of some trades, stay-at-home dad, Libra

thejungalow.com

@thejungalow @justinablakeney @justinablakeneyhome

On Bohemianism: “A life of adventure and creativity and an insatiable need to create and surround oneself with the wild and the beautiful.”



PAGES: 69 AND ABOVE

FAITH BLAKENEY and DAUGHTER NOA PLANK

Interior designer, fashion stylist, Leo

faithblakeney.com @faithblakeney

“Living on the forefront. Being tapped into what is happening culturally, and dancing on the edge of it, to your own rhythm. It’s a lifestyle of free thinking, free spirit, art, creativity, and passion.”



PAGES: 44–45, 107, 119, 120, 189, AND ABOVE

DANA CLEVERLY, JACOB RUSHING, CATS LADY BOB and RICHARD PARKER, and DOG YUKI

Graphic designer, art director, Sagittarius | Photographer, Cancer

cleverlydesigned.xyz @dcleverly
jacobrushing.com @jacobrushing

“Bohemianism means taking adventures, having fun, not having all the answers, letting things flow, being mismatched but interesting, small moments of discovery, warm woodsy smells, not being on trend, loving things because of their meaning to you, sharing your story, surrounding yourself with things you believe in, and creating a sanctuary that’s uniquely your own.”



PAGES: 46, 91, 93, 98–99, 119, 129, 175, AND ABOVE

HEATHER CULP and PUP, AVALANCHE

Photographer and cofounder of Mercado Sagrado, Gemini

heatherculpphotography.com @heatherculp
mercado-sagrado.com @mercado_sagrado

“[Bohemianism means to me being] free-spirited—the life of an artist or gypsy living moment to moment rather than conforming to a more corporate social mold.”



PAGES: 54, 103, 108, 124–25, 132, AND ABOVE

**DABITO, RYAN BENNET, and PUPS,
LUIGI and STERLING**

Photographer, graphic designer, art director, cultural influencer,
Aries | High school principal, Sagittarius

oldbrandnew.com  @dabito

“Bohemianism is defined by bold, adventurous, and free-spirited creatures who don’t conform to any style. They embrace eccentricity, color, happy accidents, multicultural influences, and nature.”



PAGES: 19, 40, 43, 52, 66–67, 86, 103, 107, 113, 115

**VANESSA DINGWELL, CHARLIE OVERBEY,
DAUGHTER KATIE JUNE, and DOGS, RUBY MAE,
SWEETIE BELLE, and SHERMAN**

Designer, store owner, vintage collector, Pisces | Musician, milliner,
store owner, Sagittarius

honeywoodvintage.com @honeywoodvintage
lonehawkhats.com @lonehawkhats

"I believe bohemianism is a lifestyle that reflects our creative ideology. It is a way of life that celebrates the artist and the creative spirit without adhering to any conventional or traditional ideals. To us, bohemianism is also very closely connected to personal intuition and spirituality."



PAGES: 229, AND ABOVE

MICHELA GOLDSCHMEID

Fashion designer, interior designer, Aquarius

📷 @michela_gold

“Bohemian means to follow your own mind and spirit.”



PAGES: 16, 87, 117, 169, 175, 176–77

**DONNA “ZIA” HUMPHREY, KEVIN MALONEY, and
DOG, DANTE**

Cofounder of Rendezvous Collective experiential marketing, Cancer | Movie production, writer, punster, gardener, proud caretaker of the Concord grape vine that ate Venice, Pisces

rendezvouscollective.com @ziafinds

“Bohemianism is a broad moniker that defines one’s choice to live life with intention and not feel the need to fit into a particular social norm. For me, it’s a definition that makes it easy for people to understand why we don’t watch TV, own a microwave, or buy anything mass produced. While we don’t find that at all weird, we’re affectionately known as a little kooky. So be it! We collect artisan-crafted goods (fair trade), and repurpose discovered treasures. Our tiny bungalow is filled with color and possessions that have meaning and tell a story.”



PAGES: 188, AND ABOVE

**LOUISE INGALLS STURGES and
TYLER HAMMOND BRODIE**

Artist, Libra | Artist, music and film producer, Cancer

casualrainbow.com

@besosyfotos | @popular_delusions

"We're gypsy travelers, constantly accumulating and ever evolving. We're totally creative colorful hippies who collect stuff and love to travel, and I think by some loose definition that puts us under the bohemian umbrella."



PAGES: 153, AND ABOVE

EMILY KATZ and ADAM PORTERFIELD

Creative consultant, macrame specialist, singer, artist, Sagittarius, ascendant Gemini, moon in Cancer | Designer, builder, Aries

modernmacrame.com @emily_katz @modernmacrame
goldenruledesign.com @goldenruledesign

"Bohemian means focusing on working to live rather than living to work. That said, we work really hard, with adventure always on the horizon."



PAGES: 155, AND ABOVE

**MATTIE KANNARD, DENNIS SMITH, and
SON, MACKIE**

Middle school teacher, Scorpio | GIS specialist, Aquarius

newmexmattie.com @newmexmattie

"I've always been comfortable letting my soul, my heart, and my creativity guide me. Life is art, an aesthetic experience, a connectedness. Our home is a reflection of that."



PAGES: 8, 12, 31, 48–49, 72–73, 120, 180, 233

**LAUREN KOLODNY, JOHNNY FLANAGAN,
and DOG, GORDOS**

Blogger, designer, Libra | Designer, store owner, Aries

shoprighttribe.com @righttribe

*“[Bohemianism means] being yourself and free to do whatever,
however you want.”*



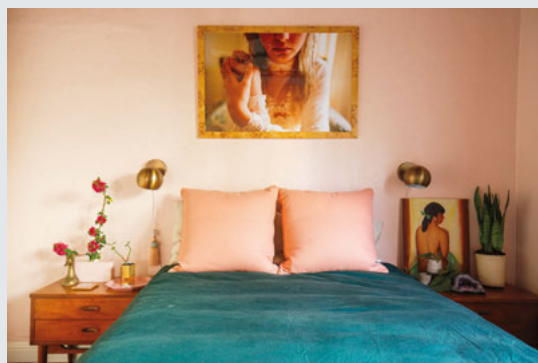
PAGES: 50, 58, 60–61, 90, 101, 115, 119, 190

**GILLIAN LAWLEE, DAVID FOUSER, CHILDREN
CLARA and DESMOND, and CAT, ECHO**

Interior stylist, Capricorn | Professor of history, Scorpio

a1000xbetter.com @my.life.in.colour

“For me, [bohemianism] is something that is grounded in art, in freedom of expression, and in thought. It is not tied to rules or perfection, more an outward expression of a colorful mind. It is found and collected.”



PAGES: 74, 76, 111, 127, 162, 227, AND ABOVE

CAROLINE and JAYDEN LEE

Photographers, serial entrepreneurs, Aquarius and Scorpio

woodnotephoto.com @teamwoodnote

cococarpets.com @cococarpets

lightlabla.com @lightlab

"[Bohemianism is] eclectic, worldly, free-spirited, seeking altruism, idealistic, experience-focused."



PAGES: 64, 103, 143, 179, 180, AND ABOVE

MERISA LIBBEY, BRIAN OVEREND, and DOG, ZOE

Interior designer, prop stylist, Gemini | Photographer, Aries

Merisalibbeydesigns.com @melibbey

Brianoverend.com @brianoverend

"[Bohemianism is] freely expressing yourself even if it is unconventional."



PAGES: 1, 40, 47, 58, 80, 89, 136, 154, 156–157, 172–173, 239, 243

ERIN LUCAS and MARSHALL LAKE

TV personality, interior designer, Scorpio | Artistic director, Taurus

📷 @houseoflucas

“Bohemianism is a state of mind. It’s being present, grateful, and connected to nature, knowing that you are not separate but part of a greater whole, and treating that whole with the utmost love and respect.”



PAGES: 55, 56, 80, 86, 142, 158

**JOHANNA MASKA, HENRY C. JACKSON,
and SON, HUGH**

Former White House aide, advisor and consultant, Aquarius |
Editor and writer for *POLITICO*, Virgo

📷 @johannamaska

*“A [bohemian] home [is] where anything goes—where love
surrounds, and wine abounds.”*



PAGES: 55, 56, 80, 86, 142, 158

BREEZE GIANNASIO
(Designer of the Maska/Jackson home)

Interior designer, lawyer, entrepreneur, Capricorn

breezegiannasio.com @breezegiannasio

"There is something unconventional, even quietly radical about the new bohemian. She turns her back on the prescribed and is a seeker, wanderer, eclectic curator of curiosities and things of purpose and meaning."



PAGES: 38, 71, 120, 146–47, 171, 231

**JESSE MEIGHAN, MICHAEL FRANCE, and CATS,
MOMO and WOOKIE (Tenants of the Dome)**

Entrepreneur and cofounder of Jane West, Virgo |
CEO and founder of KINDLAND, Aquarius

janewest.com @jessemeighan
thekindland.com @mikey_france

"In terms of [the bohemian] aesthetic, I think of traveling, collecting, and filling your life and home with things that hold meaning and aren't just stuff. I believe it's an openness, a curiosity. It's mixing disparate influences to create your own deeply personal vibe. I think it also means you own a lot of silk scarves."



PAGES: 38, 71, 120, 146–147, 171, 231

TONY WEI (Owner of the Dome)

Writer, house flipper, Aquarius

📷 @happyglen

“To me, bohemianism is a celebration of visual diversity, where a myriad of aesthetics and cultures all get to coexist in harmony. It’s like the United Nations of design!”



PAGES: 11, 42, 46, 78, 79, 81, 85, 87, 90, 103, 113, 115, 126, 128, 134–35, 160, 178, 187, 235

**CHRISTINA MENESES, CHILDREN JACK and
ALYSSA, AND DOG, DIEGO**

Hairstylist, Libra

📷 @meneses75

*“[Bohemianism] is unconventional, offbeat, patterns galore,
artsy with hippie influences.”*



PAGES: 63, AND ABOVE

PAIGE MORSE

Creative director, interior designer, Gemini

paigemorsecreative.com  @paige_morse


“Choosing to live a life less ordinary. It means you aren’t influenced by social norms and pursue a life that fulfills your senses. You follow your whims. Even when you are poor, life feels rich. You travel without an agenda. You immerse yourself in other cultures. You surround yourself with things that remind you of where you have been and what you have experienced. You love nature and the earth with awe and respect and seek to be surrounded by it and bring it into your home. Patina and decay are as beautiful as objects that are fresh and vibrant. You follow rhythms, not schedules. You appreciate everything that is rich with spirit, soul, and story.”



PAGES: 138, 191, AND ABOVE

ADAM POGUE

Designer, Leo

iamadampogue.com  [@iamadampogue](https://www.instagram.com/iamadampogue)

"A bohemian is someone who does their own thing. If you don't have it, make it. Or make it work for you."



PAGES: 28-29, 36, 69, 105, 107, 111, 115, 119, 120, 151, 225

**ERICA REITMAN, GREG REITMAN, and DOG,
DUDLEY**

Interior designer, Pisces | Video editor, Cancer

ericareitman.co @ericareitman

"For me, 'boho' means collected and unique. And I'm definitely a 'boho maximalist' . . . I like to collect a lot of different things and I have a crazy-good time putting them all together."



PAGES: 26, 27, 33, 170, AND ABOVE

**ERICA TANOV, STEVEN EMERSON,
and CHILDREN ISABELLE AND HUGO**

Designer, Sagittarius | Musician, composer, Cancer

ericatanov.com @ericatanov

stevenemerson.com @stevenemersonmusic

*"[Bohemianism is to be] free-thinking, free-spirited, untethered,
stylistically hippie with a touch of glamour."*



PAGES: 50, 130–31, 107, AND ABOVE

SARA TOUFALI and EDDIE DUMPHY

Actor, graphic designer, Capricorn | Videographer, Taurus

saratoufali.com @saratoufali | @eddumper

“Bohemianism is a love for learning, exploring, and experiencing new things. A thirst for travel and adventure, [experiencing] cultures and ways of life that are different than your own—wanderlust.”



PAGES: 39, 50, 65, 87, 148–49, 187, AND ABOVE

**MARISA VITALE, PETER VITALE, CHILDREN
OLIVER and MACY, and CATS CHOCO and BLU**

Photographer, Aquarius | Principal strategic planner for the
city of Santa Monica, Aries

marisavitale.com @marisavitalephoto

“Bohemianism in our home is a constant changing and shifting of lifestyle and home style matching our moods of the year, the month, or the day! Our wanderlust lifestyle keeps us on our toes and always finding new, unique items to bring home. Plus, Peter’s amazing alley finds and obsession with clearance bargains keeps our house goods continually shifting and changing out. We are fickle and are always changing things around and trying new things. If it doesn’t work, we just try something else.”



PAGES: 22, 50, 80, 87, 111, 144, 241, AND ABOVE

**GARDENIA RAMIREZ WOODHAMS-ROBERTS,
MATTHEW WOODHAMS-ROBERTS, CHILDREN
ALEJANDRA and JOAQUIN, and PUP, JAX**

Owner of Lola y Tula, Libra | Creative director at TBWA Chiat LA, Libra

lolaytula.com [@lolaytula.com](https://www.instagram.com/lolaytula.com)

"Bohemianism, to me, means relaxed, unconventional, and eclectic in feeling. Preferring pieces that are lush, textured, and rich in color. Wanting to layer rather than be minimal. Whether it's rugs, furniture, or a dress in your wardrobe, bohemian pieces have a gypsy soul, like a treasure from a different corner of the world. To me, the mixing together of styles, materials, and patterns to create a unique look—that's bohemian to me."

Contributors



P. 211

KELLY CUADRA

Floral designer, Aquarius

vivavoce-designs.com @lacuad

“Bohemianism is a personal, creative freedom that carries a sense of purpose and purity. [It’s] living a carefree life which embodies passion, adventure, and a strong sense of self.”



P. 186

TALI and OPHIRA EDUT

Astrologers, Sagittarii

astrostyle.com @astrotwins


“[Being a bohemian is] feeling free to design your life according to your inner compass and your soul’s purest expression. It means living on your terms, regardless of what’s been deemed fashionable or popular. Bohemianism is keenly tuning in when your spirit whispers its secrets, and allowing that to guide your style and self-expression.”



P. 211

KATIE HESS

Flower alchemist and founder of Lotus Wei, Pisces

lotuswei.com  @lotuswei


"Bohemianism is following your own inner compass, in terms of creative inspiration and how you live your life. Rather than following status quo, it is freedom plus earthiness and a love for pioneering your own beautiful way in the world."



P. 195

RAFI KALICHSTEIN

Principal at FORM Design Studio and certified Black Hat Feng Shui practitioner, Aries

form-designstudio.com
 @form_dsgnstudio


"To me, bohemian means unique, eclectic, and personal."



P. 201

VANESSA KNIGHT

Able Ground, Libra

ableground.com
 @able_ground

"To me, bohemianism as a lifestyle means living an artistic, passionate, and colorful life—questioning societal trends, beliefs, and mental paradigms and instead truly connecting to your unique style and belief system [based on] your life experiences."

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GRATEFUL BLESSINGS

It took a family of incredible humans to convince me to take a leap of faith and write this book, and then to help me to bring it to life. I am forever grateful.

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To my parents: You two raised me in a house full of love, *ruach*, and strength. You raised me to believe I could do and be anything I could dream up. If my household has half the joy that our home had growing up, I will consider that a success. I am always in awe of you two, and I love you to the moon and back times infinity, as Ida would say.

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To my Faith and Xavi, to Shai and Em, to Papa Denny and Papa Jim. I love you guys, and I am grateful for you.

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To the twenty-plus families who invited us into your homes and let us rearrange your furniture, take photos, and dig into your lives, I can't thank you enough. You and your homes are forever inspiring, and I hope you love the book as much as I do.

To you all, my readers—you are my sounding board and my inspiration. You are my coaches and my compass. Your visits, comments, love, and support have brought me to where I am today. I have so much love and gratitude. Thank you.

I dedicate this book to the mamas and the grandmamas (both mine and Ida's). You all taught me how to find the joy—the *good vibes*—and live with that joy not only in my home but in my heart. Now we are passing that joy on to Ida, and I see it in the spring in her step, and I hear it in the glee of her voice. I thank you all infinitely for that. Halfway through making this book we lost my grandmother, Bette (Gaga). My hope is that this book carries with it Gaga's radiant spirit, boundless energy, wit, and joie de vivre.

With gratitude and a full heart,

Justina

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

“Justina Blakeney’s fearless use of color and pattern has forever redefined bohemian design.” —Domino.com

Designer, artist, and author Justina Blakeney is known for her colorful, patternful, and plant-iful aesthetic, a style she calls Jungalow. With an online audience of more than two million, Justina has created a design movement that encourages people to experiment, let loose, and decorate wild!

Justina grew up in Berkeley, California, where her colorful, soulful, *multi-culti* upbringing had her obsessed with international travel, flea markets, plants, and textiles from an early age. She studied world arts and cultures at UCLA and, upon graduation, Justina set off to travel the globe. She made it across the Atlantic but somehow found herself living, studying design, and then working in Italy for the better half of her twenties.

Now, back in Los Angeles, Justina runs the award-winning lifestyle blog TheJungalow.com and designs surface patterns and products for her homewares brand, Justina Blakeney Home.

Justina is consistently tapped as “a top designer to follow” by publications including *Vogue*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Forbes*, the *Washington Post*, *Glamour*, *Refinery29*, and more. Her first decor book, *The New Bohemians: Cool and Collected Homes*, was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Justina lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Jason; daughter, Ida; kitty, Luda; and fifty-two houseplants.









“Justina’s style is so warm and colorful. She makes much more than moments. She makes life feel bright and hopeful. All her plants and palettes and prints are put together in ways that are beyond stylish. It is art. It makes you want to live in her worlds.”

—DREW BARRYMORE,
actress, author

“An indispensable manual to living in a home that’s pretty, restful, groovy, and 100 percent you. This is my spirit book! Finally, a book that offers specific, helpful ways to make a home feel original, beautiful, and, most importantly, like a haven for its homeowner. Plus: crystals!”

—SOPHIE DONELSON,
editor in chief, *House Beautiful*

“Justina is a magical human who really understands how to live well and create a space you love. Not only is this book an excellent read, it also feels like you’re having a straight-up convo with Justina about how to make your space cooler, original, and more inspiring. Very good vibes.”

—JESSICA ROMM PEREZ,
editor in chief, *Domino*



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JUSTINA BLAKENEY,

author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The New Bohemians*, returns—with fresh design advice and free-spirited inspiration for adding style and good vibes to your home.

With Blakeney’s expert guidance, uncover your “spirit environment” and learn how to easily and affordably turn any dwelling into your personal sanctuary.



JUSTINA BLAKENEY is the founder of the award-winning blog *The Jungalow*—the go-to source for bohemian design and inspiration. Her lifestyle brand, Justina Blakeney Home, includes home furnishings, accessories, rugs, wallpaper, and more. Justinablakeney.com.

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