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magazine

Accessorizing with FLAIR

Undecorate: An exclusive peek
inside the home of Andy Newcom

EVERYDAY ECO:

Fresh options for chic, sustainable living

LAUREN BUSH

on FEED, fashion, and her five go-tos

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"A brightly painted front door makes your home feel inviting and helps you stand out from the neighbors," says Dyer. She centered the vintage table from Argentina in the foyer to balance four surrounding interior doors.

Interior decorator **Jennifer Dyer** isn't quick to classify her work as belonging to one specific style. "I'm not sure I want a label," she says. "I don't necessarily follow any rules....I simply find a piece I love and build a room around it." In design projects for clients of Jeneration Interiors, her West Hollywood-based firm, Dyer strives to balance various cultures, styles, and time periods. "I want traditional elements with [modern touches], antiques with Asian elements,...mixed with textures like brass, cotton, and silk," she says.



Decorator Jennifer Dyer, of Jeneration Interiors

vintage fusion



Jeneration Interiors' **Jennifer Dyer** restores character to a 1947 Hollywood Regency home

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Dyer bought the dining room chandelier at a bedding store, even though it wasn't listed for sale. "Everything is for sale," says Dyer. "Just because it's part of a store's decor doesn't mean they're not willing to get rid of it." The molding above the doorway was part of the original 1947 structure. The nailhead-trimmed dining chairs are by Thomas Pheasant for Baker Furniture.

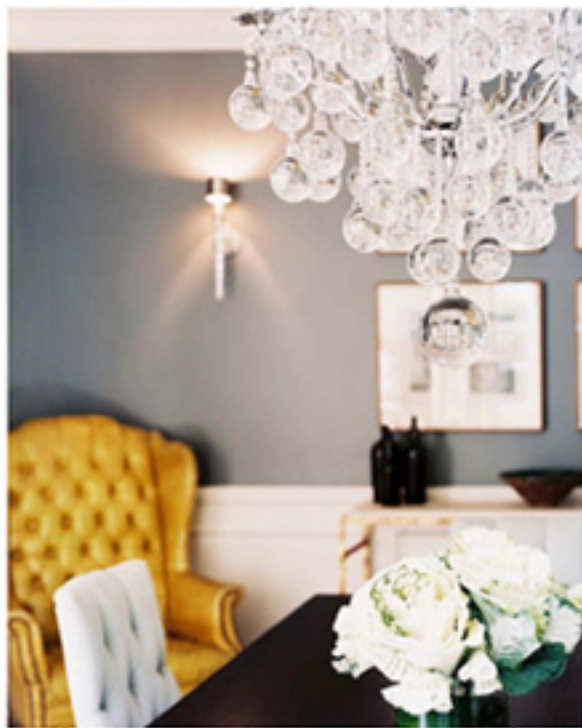


For Dyer, interiors aren't meant to match but, rather, to coordinate. "Think about it: when you wear a black dress, you've got to wear yellow or orange shoes to add a sense of quirk," she says. "And with that sense of quirk, you end up making the whole outfit."

While working as a marketing coordinator in her early 20s, Dyer lived in locales as varied as London and Morocco, which greatly influenced her eclectic sense of style. When she landed in Miami in 2001 to pursue interior design as a career, her creativity was as charged as her passport was stamped. "I used to tell my mother I was born on the wrong continent," she says. "I was incredibly inspired while abroad; it helped me understand antiques, furnishing, and textiles."

The experience also provided incomparable lessons in architecture, lessons that helped Dyer restore a client's 1947 Hollywood Regency home in Los Angeles. Having been remodeled and renovated several times, the property, Dyer says, had "lost its charm." Some rooms were missing molding, and a new addition lacked the authenticity of the rest of the home. "The house needed to regain consistency," she says. "I felt like it was my job to bring back the 1947 style this house was meant to have."

Today, traditional furnishings are arranged against a backdrop that includes restored moldings and black lacquered doors, helping the house recapture its mid-century sensibility. Vintage pieces interspersed with international finds perfectly offset Dyer's classic approach. "I try to bring in different concepts, colors, and accessories to promote an eclectic feel," she says. "I want it to look as though my clients have traveled the world—even if they never have." ✨




Dyer found the yellow tufted wingback chair abandoned on La Brea Avenue in Los Angeles. "I left it just as it was," she says. "I knew I could never replicate that electric yellow color."



To create a chic and functional kitchen, Dyer mixed the crisp white palette with bright pops of color and attached glass doors to the cabinets. "You should be able to see what's in your cupboard," she says. She installed woven wood window shades to add texture and contrast to the room, while the pendant light from Restoration Hardware gives a polished feel.



Dyer found this table for \$75 at a Santa Monica flea market. "It was bright pink, but in great condition," she says. "It simply needed to be refinished." The cane chairs are by Dan Marty Design.



"Whenever I spot a brass or ceramic head sculpture, I have to have it," says Dyer. The ceramic bust of an Indonesian woman is from a flea market in Atlanta. An antique French plant stand from Alhambra Antiques serves as a podium.



Dyer used touches of coral and yellow in the living room to coordinate with elements from the kitchen and dining room. "It's important for all the rooms in a house to flow," she says. The painting was purchased at a market in Thailand. "Always bring pieces back when you're traveling; it helps your home feel collected, not decorated."

To tie in the painting above the sofa, Dyer upholstered these traditional tufted chairs with a toile chinoiserie. The fireplace, featuring a marble mantle and brick backing, is original to the house.



The duvet cover in the master bedroom inspired the entire room's decor. "The turquoise was a different take on traditional blues used in bedrooms," says Dyer. She had the dresser restored after finding it for \$500 at an antique shop in Pasadena.



Mix Cultures, Styles, and Time Periods

with Jennifer's Tips

Be patient! Don't buy things simply to finish off projects.

I once waited almost a year before adding the art and accessories to a room in order to search for the right pieces. When you see it, you'll know!

Use at least one antique or vintage piece in every room.

It automatically makes it more eclectic.

Train your eye. I buy pieces all the time that seem old but aren't. If you mix them in properly, no one will ever know they're not prized antiques.

There are no rules to mixing different cultures, but use common sense. You'll know automatically that Native American objects don't necessarily jive with chinoiserie!

Stay true to your architecture.

Unless you live in a fabulous prewar loft and can beautifully juxtapose ornate millwork with Italian contemporary, create some continuity. Don't decorate a Colonial house with modern furniture or a mid-century home with heavily carved wooden furniture: the house will lose its soul.



Dyer covered the walls in fabric from Kravet to add texture to the guest bathroom. "I get really bored with wallpaper," she says, "and knew this fabric would lend warmth to the cooler subway tile."



Dyer likes to use abundant fabric in bedrooms, even in unconventional areas such as bedside tables. "The keys to keeping bedrooms soft are soft colors and even softer furnishings," she says.

Dyer's tips for creating a chic closet? "Make it feel like a boutique," she says. She had the master closet painted, created a custom area rug, and added a vintage table and chandelier. The paint helps it feel separate from the master bedroom, and the table allows for room to lay out jewelry and accessories.



The client's teacup Yorkshire terrier, Elmo, sits ready with wardrobe advice.



"Hang or display as many pieces of your wardrobe as possible so you can go shopping in your own closet," says Dyer. "If you can't see it, you won't wear it."

Jennifer's Advice for

Restoring Vintage Pieces with Ease

Most things that are broken can be fixed.

Don't pass on an object just because of a simple crack, a broken leg, or a scratch. An amazing refinisher can bring the life back into your selections.

Add and embellish.

Apply molding in a coordinating lacquer or wood to the door fronts of furniture. Within the molding frame, add mirror or a bronze screen. Find what works for the piece.

Changing or replating hardware can make a huge difference.

Any accessory can become a lamp. A thick piece of Lucite can provide a base on which to mount your accessory. Add a French mount and a shape-appropriate shade, and voilà—a lamp!

Dyer chose an unusually tall table lamp for the guest room. "There's something about the height of this lamp that brings a lot to the space," she says. "In general, try to include larger pieces that you wouldn't normally see."



"I'm not a fan of hanging chandeliers in the center of the room; it's too expected," says Dyer. "I prefer to place them off to the side; it creates a separate area in the space."



Dyer hung draperies on the canopy bed to create a cocoon-like feeling. "You want your guests to feel special when they're visiting," she says. "The draperies are reminiscent of a hotel."

Dyer chose darker colors to hide wear and tear in the frequently used media room. "I wanted this room to feel like it could be seaside," she says.



The colors and style Dyer chose for the cabana recall those of the media room. She retiled the pool with vintage Spanish tile to create an aged look.



Jennifer's Tips for Shopping Abroad

You don't have to consult Christie's auction house to find beautiful pieces. I never leave the U.S. without a Lonely Planet guide—a great source for high- and low-end recommendations—in my luggage.

Before leaving home, **make a list of stores to visit and hire a car and driver.** You need to make the most of your time.

Don't be so literal! A scarf can become a pillow cushion if backed by a lining, and kilims can become upholstery. Think outside the box.

Hang with the locals. You left the U.S. to immerse yourself in another culture, so ask questions and learn the history.

Hit the markets! Many major cities have weekly markets where you can find great items.