

STANDARD

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ARTISTS AT HOME
early summer 2012





A photograph of an interior space. In the foreground, a white armchair with a purple floral pattern and a shaggy yellow pillow is visible. In the background, a round wooden table is surrounded by wooden chairs. A potted plant sits on the table. The wall behind the table is covered in a large, abstract mural with blue and brown tones. The floor is made of dark wood.

color

CHAMELEON

STORY BY MALLORY HAMEL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPENCER SELVIDGE



“ I’m kind of a chameleon. I can walk into someone’s house and see their style and interpret it easily. If someone likes color it really excites me, it’s more fun for me.”

The words of Stephanie Moore, a woman with her own unique brand of creativity. Stephanie specializes in designing drapery, upholstered furniture, lampshades, bedding, and the like. Her company is Cush Cush Design—Cush Cush meaning, “happy” or “joy” in Hindi. Previously a high-end boutique in Austin, Texas, Cush Cush was open to the public from 2000-2004, providing fabrics, furnishings and jewelry. When Stephanie closed the store, she began fully focusing on custom-designed work.

Although the distinctive style which Stephanie has developed over the years is that of personal passion and education, her history with textiles is also rooted in her heritage.

“My grandmother passed away when I was six years old. She inspired me more than I can say. Even at that age, I was so enthralled by her. I feel like

I inherited her creativity,” Stephanie notes.

After having learned to sew from her mother, Stephanie studied fashion design and fabric design in school. At that time, she would often make her own fabrics for her projects.

Stephanie landed in the film industry, where she worked in costuming. It was at this time that she realized she didn’t want to continue in fashion, but most definitely wanted to take her work with fabrics to the next level. She began dabbling with slipcovers and drapes, and then fell into the realm of interiors.

“The results were more rewarding... to see a room and how you’ve changed it with fabric.”

The rooms in Stephanie’s home are evidence of her reverence for textiles. When choosing fabrics for the main space, Stephanie allows that she was in a “purple zone.” This has since become the present blues and yellows.

“I tend to get bored very quickly and redo things a lot. The house has gone through so many transformations.



roomy recovered chairs purchased at a festival. An antique console, formerly belonging to her grandmother, Verna Mae Moore, is the platform for one of Stephanie's most intriguing assemblages. Atop this console is a quirky arrangement of bizarre and fascinating items.

"I put little things that I collect and love there. I like to make vignettes."

Alien sculptures from Austin Art Collage, crystals and rocks, and a hummingbird nest are but a few of the oddities grouped together in an off-beat harmony.

The crowning piece to this little set-up is a wintery white jackalope from the Corner Shoppe in Austin.

"I was working on a Stubb's BBQ remodel, just giving it a little face-lift. When we were looking for items for the project, we thought we may use the jackalope. I ended up keeping it and putting a choker from India around its neck."

When I'm looking for things or pulling stuff for clients, new fabrics will inspire me. I like to bring in new stuff. Sometimes it's the one new thing that changes everything."

In her living space, a colorful seating arrangement pays homage to Stephanie's talents, as the richly involved patterns meet at their own boundaries. A soft, taupe sofa sits across from two



In Stephanie's living room, vintage pieces are given new life with fabrics—many from Designer's Guild.



Stephanie (left) and her friend Laurel Kinney sit at her vintage dining table. Behind them is an old movie backdrop from Howl Interiors.



In her dining area, one of the most beautiful attributes to her home hangs behind the dining table (which was snagged at an estate sale). A wall-sized canvas—stretched specifically for the space—from Howl Interiors in Austin, has printed upon it a movie backdrop which reminded Stephanie of Hanalei Bay on the north side of Kauai, Hawaii.

“I walked into the store and was like, ‘Oh, I can have the beach in my house!’”

Stephanie likes to find vintage pieces and spruce them up. Many of these items come from festivals in Round Top, Texas. Another interesting source for some of Stephanie’s fabrics was a shop owned by two little ladies (fabric hoarders, according to Stephanie) in Monterrey, Mexico. The rolls are vintage (60s and 70s), and were just being stored, lonely and forgotten, in a back room. Stephanie brought them to the states for a revival.

“Usually it’s colors that I have a crush on at the time... yeah, I get color crushes,” Stephanie jokes. “Then I start injecting them into the house, working

around that. I’ll buy a new piece, move stuff around and change colors.”

In the bedroom, Stephanie has created a very relaxing environment—one that is most conducive to slipping into dreams. Grays, pinks and white are the basis for this sleepy area.

“In the bedroom, I just wanted to turn it off and not have too much focus.”

However gentle in its design, the bedroom is still very chic. A vintage chair, recovered in a lovely light pink, is positioned in one corner near a beckoning bed. Off-white, paneled walls are accented by the simple border of the long drapes, and meet the slender planks of the floor. Several framed photographs are the work of James Evans—an artist and friend of Stephanie’s mother.

“I’ve followed his work over the years and have always loved it. He has several beautiful books out.”

Two matching side tables are enlivened by fresh flowers (thanks to a friend at *Pollen*, an Austin floral design company, floral arrangements can be





Stephanie's grandfather, an acclaimed designer for Universal Rundle, designed the tiny, pink toilet (right) that sits atop one of her bedside tables.



“YEAH, I GET **COLOR CRUSHES.**”



seen throughout the home).

Stephanie’s studio is delightful for the eyes. Rolls of fabric hang from racks along the walls, and her worktable is busy with materials for current projects. Some of her completed work can be seen in Austin restaurants; Uchi, Uchiko and Perla’s. More beautiful examples can be found at the Hotel St. Cecilia, where she completed all of the draperies and valences in four suites of the classy guesthouse.

Stephanie is currently working with Kelly Wearstler (one of her idols), influencing the ambiance of some of the residential penthouses at the W Hotel in downtown Austin. At the moment, Stephanie is juggling several projects... and is always looking forward to the next opportunity to change someone’s life with fabric. 🐦

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