

THE *Artful* LODGER

For a fun-loving art consultant,
accessorizing is an artform in itself

If you ever visit art consultant Deborah Page's Tarrytown house, don't get used to the setup. Chances are if you return again, the decor will be completely overhauled. Even Page's husband, Dave Schneider, a money manager, has had to come to grips with the fact that when he arrives home from work, it's likely that all the objects will have been reshuffled.

"I love to play," says Page, who moved to Austin from Santa Monica two and a half years ago, and whose house, and lifestyle, is all about art and accessories. Every square inch of the space has some sort of visual eye candy—books, vases, bowls, candles, tchotchkes and her favorite accessory of all: visual art. And she's got tons of it.

As the principal of Deborah Page Projects, the art consultant and former gallery owner has clients that include the DeJoria family, of John Paul Mitchell Systems fame, the Four Seasons Residences and scores of wineries, hotels and restaurants across the country that she outfits with well-known and emerging artists' work.

When picking art for other people's homes she considers the needs and desires of each client and approaches each project with an open mind. But when it comes to her personal home, she likes to live a bit dangerously.

{ By BECCA HENSLEY • Photographs by RYANN FORD }



Page created various accessory-laden vignettes in her home, like this one using a vintage railway baggage cart.



A fan of Barneys New York creative director Simon Doonan—“pre Jonathon Adler,” Page says—she’s no art snob, and loves to have a mishmash of weird paintings, sculptures and objects. And though art graces walls and surfaces in elegant form, her pieces range from garage sale finds to some of the world’s best-known master artists. “My art and my furnishings follow no overarching theme,” she says.

In other words, while the collection is eclectic and mixed, everything works perfectly. Look closely and you’ll spy a Damien Hirst or Francis Bacon. But all around, less commonly known artists hold court, too. Up-and-coming artists like Mark Bradford, who went from a gallery show in LA to a solo show at The Whitney, Caio Fonseca and Nathan Green also grace her walls. Even the first art Page ever purchased, an abstract pastel gouache on paper by little-known artist Linda K. Smith, hangs prominently.

Perhaps one of the most striking pieces is in Page’s living room: a 54-piece bronze installation by Eleanor Stern that she bought at an estate sale. The pieces are stuck graphically and grid-like on a living room wall.

Meanwhile, there’s a whimsical pink-panty-hose-covered bust of Bach by Texas artist McKay Otto. True to Page’s rearranging ways, sometimes it’s found on an entryway windowsill, sometimes atop a fireplace mantle in the sitting room and sometimes on a striking bronze console by the late designer and sculptor Paul Evans, over which a tranquil abstract painting by Kenneth Noland hangs.

But art isn’t the only means of accessorizing for Page. She likes creating little vignettes

throughout the house with her random objects and curios. In the foyer, a vintage railroad cart holds an antique head from a Paris flea market, a Murano vase found at Jean Marc Fray, art books and half a bookend unearthed at the Austin Garage Sale.

Likewise, in the family room, a gilded 18th-century mirror hangs over a fireplace—there are two in the house—flanked



Below
A Ken Noland abstract hangs over a bronze Paul Evans buffet, atop which is the McKay Otto sculpture.

Opposite page
Color abounds in the family room, where yellow vases play off a Paul Smith rug.



Two alabaster lamps provided inspiration for an all-white room, which is anchored by a large Kyle Bunting cowhide rug. An ebony piano creates a dramatic statement.







Opposite page
An avant-garde chandelier hangs over a rare Paul Evans dining table, as a Francis Bacon lithograph adds color.

This page
TOP With so much artwork, Page creates eye-catching assemblages. BOTTOM A zigzag screen dazzles near a vintage chair in the master suite.

by two Shanghai-procured yellow vases and a sculpture by an Austrian artist Page discovered in Halstaat, Austria.

The homeowner never tires of experimenting with her decor. And while pieces in every color of the rainbow can be found throughout her home, for the first time in her life, Page, who loves the heavy foot traffic of hosting home parties, has indulged in an all-white living room. “Of course my children are grown,” she says, adding as she bends down to touch the room-filling Kyle Bunting, all-white cowhide rug, “But look, this is cowhide, you can wash it. This is so much better than carpet!”

A pair of white alabaster lamps, which she coveted and finally finagled in a flower shop near her gallery in Los Angeles, inspired the room’s color. From there, she reupholstered a favorite sofa and chair (they have been everything from chintz to sunbrella), and added other white pieces. For a dramatic statement, an ebony piano sits in one corner. Above it hangs a Mondrian-like abstract mixed-media piece with an all-white background and faint organic shapes by Caio Fonseca.

Out of all her acquired pieces, though, her favorite buying coup is a Paul Evans dining table and chairs. The table base is stunning, with an undulating bronze, gothic-recalling frame seen through a glass tabletop. Found at an Austin art auction, Page couldn’t believe her luck.

An avant-garde chandelier by New York-based Lindsey Adelman hangs over the Evans table, and manages to feel both contemporary and vintage. A cross between a falling, thorn-covered limb and an industrial bit of wiring, the light adds a zany sense of movement to the room. Off to the side, two Francis Bacon lithographs add a little hint of color, which she typically tries to play down.

“Rather than using color, I think it can be more exciting to place unfamiliar or non-traditional objects or furnishings into a room. I’m a big fan of installation art and sculpture, which is often overlooked when trying to furnish or complete a space.”

So, can you overdo accessories? According to Page’s sons, yes. “But I am a collector at heart,” she says. “So it’s hard for me not to keep growing my collection.” ■

