

# 805

LIVING

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HOME &  
GARDEN





# Personality PLUS

A love of color and an eclectic style give a small space a big impact.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOLLY LEPERE

## THE OWNER DEFINITELY

**HAD A VISION**, says Jessica Risko Smith of Jessica Risko Smith Interior Design ([jrside.com](http://jrside.com)) about her client, who was moving from the Midwest to a guesthouse in Montecito. Like the main residence, the small structure—barely 1,100 square feet—had a shake-shingle exterior and a Cape Cod vibe inside. What Smith's client was looking for, though, was a different aesthetic, something that allowed her to use the space efficiently. Her contractor, Ryan Prahm at DD Ford Construction ([ddford.com](http://ddford.com)) in Santa Barbara, introduced her to Smith, and the pair hit it off immediately.

“Having an engaged client was fun,” says Smith. “She wanted color. She told me right away she really liked pinks. She also wanted something more minimal and a little urban, like a loft apartment.”

The overall footprint of the guesthouse was to stay basically the same—with a great room that included a kitchen area and a separate bedroom, bath, and closet. The challenge was to use every inch of the small space without making it seem crowded.

“Jessica had a great structure to start with,” says Prahm, “and she created a jewel box.” >





Smith chose white paint for the vaulted, beamed, tongue-and-groove ceiling and left the original wide-plank walnut floors. But beyond that the interior was transformed. “The client didn’t want tile with grout joints, so we used stone,” says Smith. “The kitchen was framed in crisp white marble with no veining, and we used that for the backsplash.” The retro-style Smeg refrigerator came in just the right shade of pink, and she ordered custom pink knobs for the stainless BlueStar range. Against the pristine white backdrop, countertop appliances, like the espresso machine, and other accessories provided additional pops of color.

For the compact dining area, Smith replaced a window ledge with a built-in white-leather corner bench seat, flanked by white-lacquer book niches. She added two stainless-steel Bernhardt chairs with pink seat cushions, set on casters for height and mobility around a black lacquer table.

Centering the open floor plan is an extra-deep, club-style upholstered couch, custom-made in Los Angeles, and piled with an array of pillows (yes, in pink). Smith commissioned Santa Barbara furniture-maker Blaine Taylor ([blainetaylorfinefurniture.com](http://blainetaylorfinefurniture.com)) to build two wood nestable tables, one with a stainless top, another with an antique mirror for books and bibelots. Details, like the curved shape of the chair legs and the mirrored finish of the tabletop, would be repeated on furniture in the bedroom.

The real tour de force is the chandelier, fabricated by the Magpie art collective ([magpieartcollective.com](http://magpieartcollective.com)) in South Africa from found and recycled objects. Look closely to see beads, plastic bracelets, faux grapes, and Coke bottle bottoms refashioned into flowers. “We gave them the overall dimensions and a sense of the volume we wanted,” says Smith. When it arrived, she adds, “Chris Gonzales of Illuminations >



### The Great Room

(pages 70-71) The open floor plan has the feel of a loft, which is the effect the owner wanted. In the center, the extra-deep custom couch is piled with a generous array of pillows. The rug is braided wool. Above it all hangs an unusual chandelier made in South Africa by the Magpie art collective, according to the designer's dimensions. Created from found and recycled objects, the fixture was wired locally by Chris Gonzales of Illuminations Chandelier & Electrical; his wife added a few more crystal droplets.

### The Dining Corner

White-lacquered book niches (above) flank a built-in white-leather banquette, which provides seating at a black-lacquered table with a large turned base. Two Bernhardt chairs—set onto casters for height and mobility—are upholstered in the owner's favorite hue. The wall sconces are antiques store finds, newly stripped and powder coated.



### The View From the Hall

Flora Soft Focus wallpaper (left), created by Flat Vernacular in Brooklyn, livens the hall and laundry room, evoking the colorful chandelier in the great room. Reading matter fills the highly lacquered wall bookcase as well as the nestable wooden unit, custom built by Blaine Taylor, against the back of the couch.

### The Kitchen

The counter, backsplash, and window casing (below) are a crisp, white, veinless marble; the BlueStar range and hood are stainless steel. The owner's penchant for color (particularly pink), shows up in the '50s-style Smeg refrigerator (shown on page 70), the custom range knobs, and the countertop appliances and dishes.





Chandelier & Electrical ([illuminationschandelier.com](http://illuminationschandelier.com)) did the wiring. I love it when a client wants something different.”

The “something different” makes frequent appearances throughout the home. For other light fixtures, the client found some old wall sconces and a chandelier in an antiques shop. Smith had them stripped and powder coated in lively hues. The sconces went in the living room, bedroom, and bathroom, and the chandelier was suspended above the deep, white marble-framed tub in the bathroom, where lilac tiles added another shade to the palette.

The closet and laundry room offered other opportunities for the unexpected. Above a dresser painted with chinoiserie cherry blossoms hangs a birdcage light fixture with silk lampshades inside. Watercolor floral-patterned wallpaper by Flat Vernacular in Brooklyn brightens the hall; the same firm created a custom wall covering for an interior sliding barn

door to the bedroom. The pattern is the result of myriad little stickers (trumpets, bears, human silhouettes, pretzels, you name it) arranged to suggest a giant horticultural swag.

Smith says she enjoyed “working with so much color and variety and trying to come up with something cohesive.” In the bedroom, which doubles as the client’s office, the designer built in bedside and corner storage to hide a printer and other work tools. She repeated the materials and colors of the great room, including a bed headboard of white leather and an armchair edged in pink piping. The attention to detail extended to the insides of the dresser drawers, which were vividly upholstered and divided to accommodate a large collection of eyeglasses.

“The amount of custom work and the style is unique,” says Smith. “With most projects, there’s always a story that tells you about the person. That space is definitely *her*.” ♦

## The Bedroom

To unify the materials used throughout the home, the bedroom furniture picks up on elements in the great room: The headboard is covered in white leather, and the comfortable chair is edged in pink piping. The chandelier overhead drips with added crystals, a playful touch on many of the home's lighting fixtures.



## The Barn Door

The covering on the sliding interior barn door (top, center) is made up of random stickers—also the work of Flat Vernacular. What looks like a floral swag is composed of images of trumpets, bears, human silhouettes, and other unexpected imagery.

## The Hall

Linking the bedroom to the great room is a hall (top, right) with cabinets that hide the laundry and the linen closet.

## The Bathroom

Ann Sacks tiles in lilac add another shot of color to the bath (right) around a deep, square tub with a white marble apron and deck. The designer came up with a marble frame on wooden legs for the sink and a marble shelf below. The yellow chandelier is another antiques store find.

