

# DESIGNERS' FAVORITE OBJECTS

What the pros use, how to style it and where to get it



Above: The shelves of Bird Rock Design Co.—a design studio space shared by Erika Gervin's South Harlow Interiors and Tidal Interiors—are laden with the books, bowls and ceramics that Erika touts as her go-to accessories.

Right: Erika filled a client's shelves with unique vases, books and woven vintage pieces to great effect.



**Erika Gervin,**  
South Harlow Interiors

Erika likes to think of every room as an opportunity to create a livable work of art. She is originally from Atlanta, and her work is influenced by both her southern upbringing and personal affinity for a more casual coastal style.

SAMANTHA GOH (THIS PAGE AND BELOW); CHAD MELLON (FACING PAGE, TOP MIDDLE)

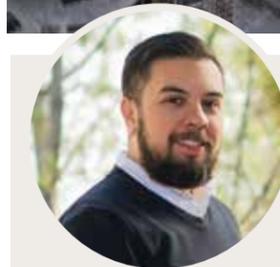


**What:** “Books are an essential styling element, and I often use a variety of coffee table books in a color palette that aligns with the overall style of a room (seen right). Also, ceramic vases—utilizing various shapes, heights and colors to add texture and function—and anything vintage. Vintage pieces provide character and depth. My favorites are wooden bowls and beads.”



**Styling:** “I tend to use these objects on bookshelves and coffee tables. Books make a great display piece for other objects to rest on, can soften a space or be stacked to add height. Vintage wooden bowls and ceramic vases are perfect for displaying flowers and beads and add variety and texture to a space when mixed. The more texture and layering, the better!”

**Where:** “Travel is always a great way to collect one-of-a-kind pieces. I also source antique stores and trade resources. Ultimately, it's always better to collect over time to achieve a more authentic and collected feel. However, if you are looking for a quick buy, I am loving the neutral-toned, handmade ceramic vases from Farmhouse Pottery right now.”



**Oscar Bravo,**  
Oscar Bravo Home

Oscar is known as the budget-friendly interior decorator. He specializes in creating fresh looks with existing furnishings, everyday objects (see his clever cereal bowl tip on the next page) and decor from accessible retail favorites like Target and HomeGoods.

**What:** “I love the simplicity and versatility of a decorative bowl paired with an elegant arrangement of flowers. They are my go-to items to instantly make a space look polished. Having flowers

Above: Oscar Bravo brightens a room with an orchid and a set of bowls.

Below: A vase filled with branches pairs nicely with two small bowls.



in a room is such a treat. It's a way to show self-love and really changes the mood of a person and home. Bowls are so versatile. You can put anything you want in them and then switch it out depending on the season. Plus, I actually really enjoy how an empty bowl looks because the focus is on its shape rather than what is in it.”



Above: Oscar employed levels to display pink blooms and white pottery. Below: Cambrian bowls from A Question of Eagles would work anywhere.

**Styling:** “Bowls and flowers can go anywhere! Most of the time, I’m pairing these items on a mantel or a coffee table. Need to style a table? Grab a couple of bowls from your cabinet—I’ve used cereal bowls on a mantel before and they looked amazing—and some flowers or branches from your yard and you can create a beautiful vignette with little effort.”



**Where:** “I love finding unique vintage bowls. I usually get lucky when I’m shopping at the antique stores on Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach. Of course, you can find a great-looking decorative bowl in many places. The kitchen section in IKEA has an awesome selection of bowls (as seen above).”



**Kitchy Crouse,**  
KC Interior Design

Kitchy is a Brazilian-born designer who finds inspiration in nature and her husband’s woodwork. She values quality over quantity and handcrafted over mass-produced and believes in creating spaces that are a balance of aesthetics and function.



Above: *Crossed Fingers* from Consort brings playfulness into a space.

Right: Kitchy Crouse chose a table with “feet” to add whimsy here.



**What:** “I adore figural art, especially hand and feet objects. It’s kind of my signature (as seen at top). You’ll probably find a hand dish or face vase in every project I have done. They are a way of communicating—almost like a form of sign language—of saying something without being there and humanizing spaces in a fun way.”

MARTIN MANN (CENTER TOP AND BOTTOM)



Areaware’s *Hand* bowl makes for the perfect fruit holder and conversation starter.

**Styling:** “I like using small figural objects as decorative pieces on a bookshelf or coffee table. They come in so many different forms that I can always find one that fits the personality of the home I’m working on.”

**Where:** “You used to only be able to find them at antique places and flea markets, but now they are much more popular and you can find them at mainstream shops like Noir, One Kings Lane and Kelly Wearstler.”



**Rachel Moriarty,**  
Rachel Moriarty Interiors

Rachel has yet to meet a color that she hasn’t loved. She is a self-described color maximalist who delights in incorporating bold colors and patterns wherever possible in her home and design work. Her specialty is elevating spaces by incorporating her clients’ existing furnishings.

Above: Rachel Moriarty’s home gallery was inspired by “When Art Rocked: San Francisco Music Posters 1966 to 1971,” an exhibit at the San Francisco International Airport.

Below: The Classic Posters website has a wide selection of vintage posters.



**What:** “I collect retro psychedelic rock art from the ‘60s. My husband and I have followed the Grateful Dead for many years and they represent a time of powerful counterculture for us. Visually, I’m a color lover and their posters [which Rachel has used to decorate her living room] incorporate a lot of color.”

Everything on my walls has a memory attached to it and means something special to me. I bring this mentality to my work as well. Most projects I have done are based around an object that is special to my clients.”

**Styling:** “When dealing with a colorful art collection, you have to create a good juxtaposition and balance by making a neutral palette and then layering on the pretty stuff. I like to mix in texture, photography and fiber art to give the eyes a place to rest between all of the posters.”

**Where:** “We’re [Rachel and her husband] hippies that value 401(k)’s. We book vacations around the Grateful Dead tour! We get posters from concerts we attend, Amoeba Records in San Francisco, or eBay.”





**Karyn Frazier & Jessica Nicolls,**  
Bungalow 56

Karyn and Jessica joined forces to create Bungalow 56 in 2016 and, ever since, have been designing spaces that benefit from Jessica's architectural background, Karyn's experience in the furniture industry and their shared love of texture.



**What:** "A few of our favorite pieces to incorporate into decorating a home are beads, a really good live or fake plant or branch for a pop of green and a great container to house it in. A vessel with a branch is great for adding height to one side of a piece of furniture and a cluster of containers can fill a large space without feeling too busy. Glass or wooden beads are a perfect way to add texture."

**Styling:** "Glass vessels with branches are a perfect addition to a kitchen island, dining table or dresser. In our own



Above: Karyn Frazier and Jessica Nicolls filled a client's shelving with a medley of objects, including trailing greenery and a number of artful vessels.

Below: The Bungalow 56 designers filled empty space atop a large hutch with a cluster of monochromatic vessels and a greenery-filled vase for height.

homes we both have a vase with succulent-filled terra-cotta or handmade pottery are always go-to objects for me. I can never tire of African hand-woven baskets. I love their texture, patterns and the fact that they are fair trade which helps families in developing countries. And wooden objects big and small, from a stool to a bowl, add so much warmth to a space."

**Where:** "Our shop in Coronado, also called Bungalow 56, often carries a great selection of these items."



**Julie Smith,**  
Jula Cole Design

Julie is a New York transplant with a passion for design and fashion. She adores texture, patterns, giving vintage pieces new life and the contrast of layering pieces together that are old and new, eclectic and clean, for a curated look.

SAMANTHA GOH (FAR LEFT, TOP AND BOTTOM)

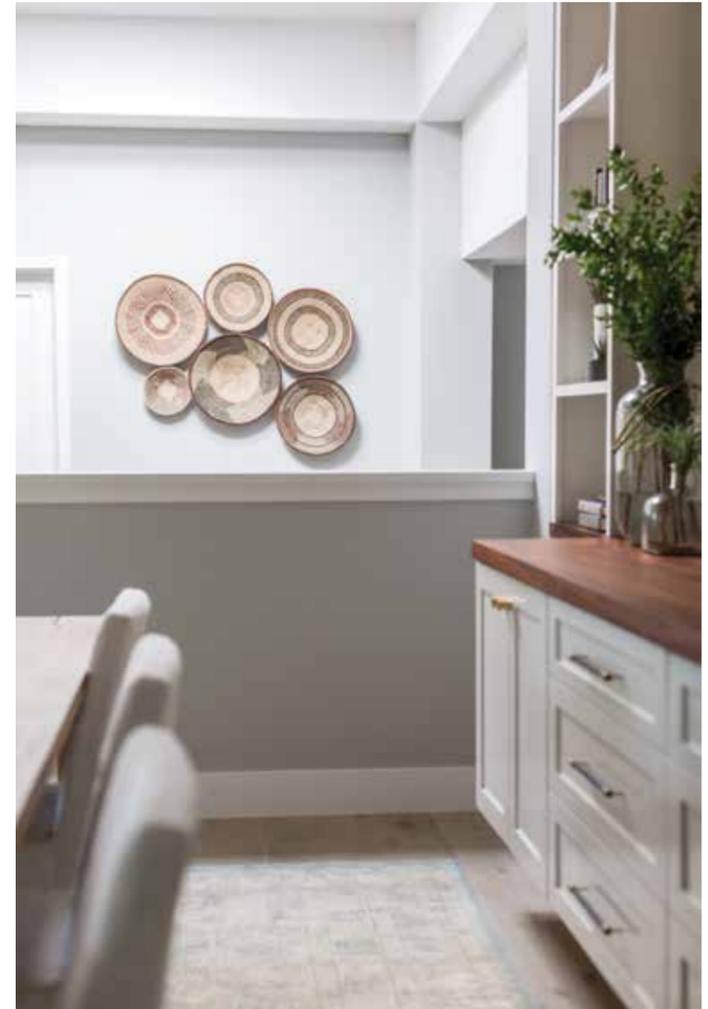
GARY PAYNE (JULIE'S PORTRAIT AND TOP CENTER); LOVE LIKE HARRY PHOTOGRAPHY (RIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM)

**What:** "Vintage vases and succulent-filled terra-cotta or handmade pottery are always go-to objects for me. I can never tire of African hand-woven baskets. I love their texture, patterns and the fact that they are fair trade which helps families in developing countries. And wooden objects big and small, from a stool to a bowl, add so much warmth to a space."

**Styling:** "The best thing about these objects is that they can go anywhere, from shelves in the living room and fireplace mantels to kitchen counters. The baskets are

a great way to create many different silhouettes on the wall depending on how you hang them and the amount and sizes you use."

**Where:** "The baskets are fair trade and can be purchased online. The vases and wooden objects are usually treasures from antique stores and travels. I found some great wooden African mini stools at the Rose Bowl [Flea Market] in Pasadena and also on the streets in New York City the last time I was home. Great pottery can always be found by sourcing from Fair, a local artisan showroom in New York City."



Clockwise from top left: Julie Smith softened this kitchen with wooden objects and pottery. • She used multisize African hand-woven baskets as artwork. • Greenery-filled pottery provides character in a bathroom she did.



**Hope Pinc,**  
Hope Pinc Design

Hope's design philosophy is to always capture both the spirit of her client and the essence of the space in her work. She is passionate about travel, texture and creating spaces that celebrate the individual styles and tastes of her clients.

Clockwise from top left: Hope Pinc curated a mix of elements on this open shelving. • These handmade baskets from All Across Africa are pretty and practical. • A headboard with a ledge offers an unexpected spot for objects.



**What:** "I've been a sucker lately for woven wall baskets! There are so many different textures and patterns to choose from and they are perfect in clusters of several or as one stunning piece on its own. I even added a few air plants to one of my clusters for extra interest."

**Styling:** "They are a wonderful way to take up a large area of wall while creating depth, texture, pattern and as much color as you would like to incorporate. I have high ceilings at my home and was able to do a great mixed display—a combination of vintage and new baskets and flat-woven placemats—above my entertainment center. Stacking them on wall shelves is also a fun way to add additional height to vignettes."

**Where:** "I've gotten some of my favorite baskets from second-hand stores, but you can get them from pretty much any home specialty store, like West Elm, Anthropologie or Urban Outfitters home."

MINDY NICOLE (TOP LEFT)



**Hope Clark,**  
Olive + Oak Interiors

Hope is a firm believer in a person's space reflecting their unique vision and personality. She enjoys using items that are meaningful or inspirational—especially heirlooms and diverse pieces from a client's travels—to create interiors that are bespoke as well as beautiful.



**What:** "I think your home should be a curation of your treasured memories and hopes, so I love styling with things that are either aspirational or nostalgic, like old wooden bowls, African Juju hats (below) and repurposed furniture."



VANESSA LENTINE (TOP RIGHT)



Clockwise from above: Hope Clark used vintage Chinese batik fabric to reupholster two repurposed mid-century rockers, making them the stars of a client's otherwise neutral living room. • She utilized one of her go-to accessories—African Juju hats—to add soft texture and dimension in her own home. • An old wooden bowl brings subtle warmth to Hope's kitchen.

**Styling:** "Juju hats were traditionally used in community rituals, which, in my opinion, makes them great decor for family spaces. They are a unique way to add soft texture and dimension to a blank wall, and styling them by creating groupings of multiples adds visual movement. Vessels for everyday items don't have to be bland—vintage wooden bowls have lovely texture and subtle warmth from their natural wood, which is an easy way to incorporate unexpected character in places like the kitchen that have a lot of cold, hard elements."

**Where:** "A great way to find pieces with history is to rummage through estate sales, flea markets and antique stores. Or, search Etsy for some unexpected finds." ❖

