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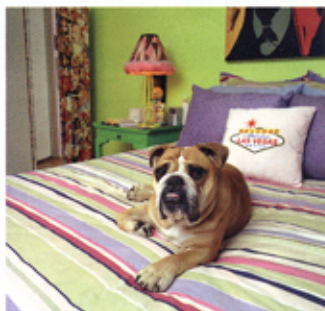


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26 Home Girl Jeanie Engelbach's amazing technicolor dream house. By Jessica Jardine

HOME GIRL

Sneaking a peek at Jeanie Engelbach's habitat for hilarity



Clockwise from top left: Dining room drama; Punk-ass porcelain; Jeanie's dog gets comfy; Keeping Tabs on the living room



JEANIE ENGELBACH JUST might be a Pottery Barn-lover's worst nightmare. A top-tier craftstress and collector, Engelbach's pad leaves no white space untouched as it bounces from fireball orange to Good & Plenty pink to pistachio green. All of this mouthwatering color is deftly complemented by wall-scaling collections and hand-crafted wonders that instantly mark Engelbach as a queen of freaky interiors.

Little Bit, her rambunctious bulldog, tumbles down the hallway to greet visitors at the elevator of her Manhattan building, leading the way to Jeanie's kaleidoscopic kingdom of kitsch. Inside, a veritable explosion of collectibles bursts from every nook and cranny of her apartment, with sections devoted to PEZ dispensers, sunken-ship bottles, bobbleheads, globes, oilcloth, comic books, chandeliers, United States plates, hand-painted teacups, and more.

"I can't seem to buy just one thing," Jeanie says when trying to pinpoint the root of her ever-sprawling collections. Before focusing full time on her photo-archival business, photo-jeanie, Engelbach worked as the visual manager at ABC Carpet & Home, where she fine-tuned her knack for organizing space.



Jeanie's apartment is full of mad, mad, mad, mad worlds; below: Just because you live in the city doesn't mean you can't have a white picket fence

Says Jeanie, "I've been display-oriented my whole life. When I was as young as six, friends would come and play and I would follow them around my room to make sure they'd put my dolls and toys back in the right place."

Eleven years in the making, Jeanie's abode stands as a breathtaking monument to kitschy Americana, mod simplicity, and good ol' fashioned dumpster-diving. Even her bedroom—decorated in bright greens and shimmery purples—boasts feather-lined bedside lamps and a once-boring IKEA clothing shelf now covered in cheesecake pin-up girls, bottle caps she filled with colored glitter, and shrunken pictures from old ads and album covers.

Meanwhile, in the dining room, Jeanie covered the exposed metal chain suspending her eye-popping, hot pink chandelier by weaving colorful, plastic flowers through it, so that it appears as though it grew straight from the ceiling. The growth theme continues in her kitchen with a beaded flower chandelier as well as fruit-and-foliage oilcloth from Mexico cut and pasted into homemade wallpaper.

And just what does this lunchbox-loving, (exclusively) Tab-drinking, glue-gun toting craft queen have in the way of home décor directions? "Don't be afraid of color. Beige is a friend to no one. It's bad no matter how you play it." [JESSICA JARDINE]

