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JANUARY 12-18, 2012 ISSUE 843
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Apartment tour

1BR in the East Village

Photo archivist and avid collector Jeanie Engelbach's cheerful dwelling is an ode to American nostalgia. By **Francesca Soroka**



1 For the past 17 years, photo archivist and visual stylist Jeanie Engelbach (photojeanie.com) has filled her rental with collections of vintage toys, contemporary art and brightly colored furniture. In the process, she has created a vivid collage of sentimental treasures displayed in innovative arrangements. "It's definitely an amalgamation of *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, Andy Warhol's *Factory* and *Candyland*," she explains. "I could never be a minimalist."

2 "I love bright colors and glitter," enthuses Engelbach. "I like to say that nothing I have comes in nature." The exception would be this once-plain kitchen table from the Conran Shop (888 Broadway between 18th and 19th Sts, lower level; 212-755-9079, conranusa.com), which Engelbach had hand-painted in a wild leopard print by her artist friend Kerry Beasley. Engelbach also dolled up the pink chandelier from ABC Carpet & Home (888 Broadway between 18th and 19th Sts; 212-473-3000, abchome.com) with a floral garland. "I'm really not good at leaving things alone," she jokes. The kitchen serves as an apt place for displaying Engelbach's vast assortment of vintage lunchboxes, sourced from across the country. Actress Abigail Breslin—one of Engelbach's



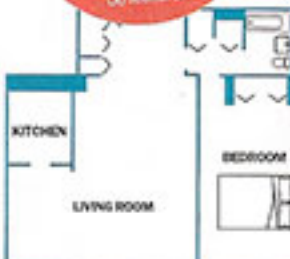
neighbors and clients—gave her a candy-themed version as a gift.

3 While working as a visual manager at ABC Carpet & Home, Engelbach fell in love with the antique carnival railing from England that sits next to her bed. "It was priced at \$1,000, so nobody ever bought it," she says. After she left the company, she returned to the store one day, only to discover that the railing was being thrown away. "The manager at the time was like, 'It was in the trash so we can't charge you—it's free.'" Engelbach found her bold bedding online at Sin in Linen (sininlinen.com) and purchased the cheeky banana-split pillow from Hable Construction (hableconstruction.com). The shoe canvas was a gift her parents purchased at the Andy Warhol Museum (warhol.org) in Pittsburgh.



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was like Steve Martin in *The Jerk*: "This is all I need." From then on, the collection grew. Most of the globes hail from flea markets, including the Brooklyn Flea (brooklynflea.com), Renningers Antiques & Farmer's Market (renningers.com) in Pennsylvania, and Pasadena's Rose Bowl Flea Market (rgcshows.com/rosebowl.aspx).

4 "Most people would probably think this is overwhelming—an explosion of color and a million things to look at," admits Engelbach of her living room. "To me, it's very calming. I feel like everything is very contained and organized." The antique bench is from the original Anthropologie store in Pennsylvania. A vintage bottle crate from the now-defunct 26th Street flea market serves as a unique storage solution for rolled-up magazines.

5 Before Engelbach's business took off, she worked at Swiss Bank Corporation in Stamford, Connecticut, and shared an office with a globe in it. "I would stare at [it] all the time, thinking about where I would like to be other than Connecticut," she recalls. When her position was eliminated unexpectedly, Engelbach marched upstairs, grabbed the globe and left. "It

6 During her time at ABC Carpet & Home, Engelbach considered this massive, retro-inspired chaise longue the bane of her existence—it was her then-boyfriend who convinced her to bring the unwieldy item home. "It's deceptively comfortable," she admits, noting that it also helped define a separate living space within the open floor plan. "[It serves as] my afternoon-reading-magazines-with-the-dogs-curling-up-on-me spot, although I generally fall asleep by the second paragraph." Engelbach adorns it with a Thomas Paul reversible pillow from Velocity Art and Design (velocityartanddesign.com) and a needlepoint queen style from Jonathan Adler (locations.throughoutthecity.com; visit jonathanadler.com). "My nickname is Queen—that's queen with a period," she deadpans.