

tailor made

In Brooklyn Heights, stylist Erin Walsh fashions her apartment with an eclectic point of view.

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STYLIST ERIN WALSH AND HER HUSBAND, fashion photographer Christian Högstedt, never pictured leaving downtown Manhattan, where studio shoots and work events are all conveniently close by. But when their expanding family outgrew a Tribeca loft, the couple considered decamping to Brooklyn. Last year, they moved with their 2-year-old daughter, Matilda (and son Jude, now 7 months, on the way), to a prewar Brooklyn Heights building that was serendipitously located next door to a playground. The apartment, spread over two floors, felt like a step back in time, with its four fireplaces and curving walls whose rooms once entertained a myriad of pastimes. "Our bedroom was an old gentlemen's cigar room," says Walsh. "The bones of the space are crazy. The ceilings are so tall and the moldings have entire narratives to them."

The couple sought to maintain the original features with one exception: lighting. Högstedt, who shoots for publications such as

Marie Claire and Vogue, understands the power of good glow. He replaced each of the pendant fixtures to create a rosier, almost golden, light and painted and scribbled on paper lanterns from Pearl River Mart for a cool DIY moment.

Drawing on her expertise, Walsh saw the project much the way she dresses her clients—including Sarah Jessica Parker, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Thandie Newton, women who embrace vibrant palettes and prints on red carpets and in everyday life. "Our home is evocative of our style DNA," Walsh explains. "It's walking that line of clean and a little crazy." In the living room, a black-and-white-patterned couch serves as the focal point, along with a stark black daybed set by the windows, both covered in brightly patterned pillows. When paired alongside mismatched artwork, lots of plants, and coffeetable books neatly piled on almost every surface, the effect takes on a free-spirited feel.

A polished playfulness resides throughout the house, with irreverent art, lots of design books, and graphic textiles on display.

This page, from left, on Walsh: Sweater and Dress ganni.com. Antique Floor Lamp adelaideny.com; Kate Moss by Mario Testino; Kate Moss and Lee McQueen by Inez & Vinoodh. Opposite: Ant Chair by Arne Jacobsen \$544 dwr.com; Spirit of Gonzo by Ralph Steadman ralphsteadmanprints.com; Photograph by Ryan McGinley ryanmcginley.com. Previous spread: Noguchi Table \$1,895 dwr.com; Couch abchome.com; Alvar Aalto Collection Vases \$195 iittala.com; Egg Vases by Ted Muehling erbutler.com; Candleholder skultuna.com; Gripsholmsruta Cushion by Estrid Ericson and Margit Thorén \$90 svenskttenn.se; Thumbprint Bowls by Elsa Peretti \$85-\$100 tiffany.com.

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"Your home is your sanctuary, so you want it to be cozy and calm," says the stylist of finding the right balance. "But you have to be brave in your choices or else it won't have personality." Walsh, who also runs the multimedia platform Sbjct Journal, admits this sense of boldness is relatively new. She and Högstedt's first apartment was kept spare mostly due to her self-doubt in creating spaces that make a statement. "Over time I started to own my style and felt more comfortable being allowed to have an opinion," she says. "Those decisions end up being the ones I love the most."

The apartment's art collection reflects that same personalized approach, where the couple's most prized pieces are a nod to their storied careers. In the dining room, a photograph of Kate Moss posing on a bathroom sink, by Mario Testino (Högstedt was his assistant for many years), shares the room with a signed Irving Penn flower print, which the late photographer presented to Walsh at a *Vogue* shoot years ago. The works join a high-low mix, ranging from fashion photography to quirky prints scored in antiques shops.

The decor goal overall was a "Scandinavian meets Peruvian" vibe,

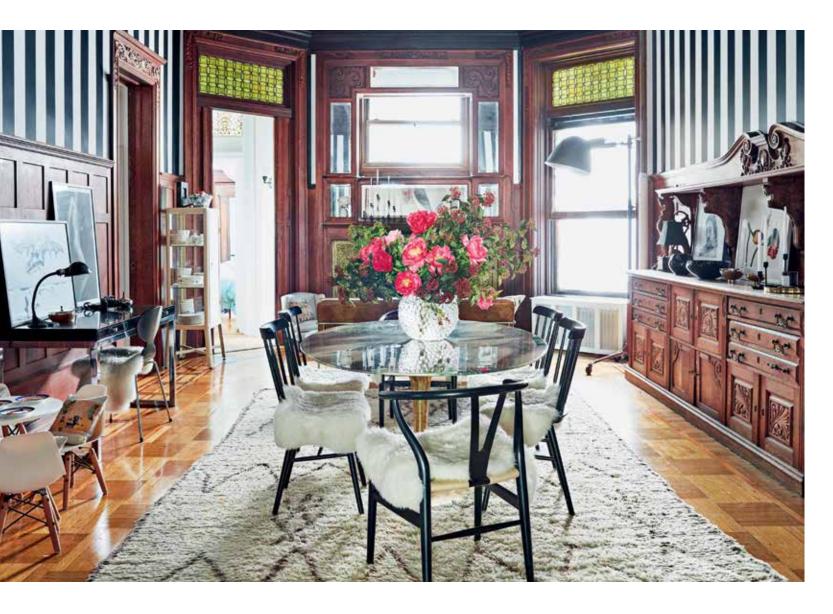
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where minimalist design gives way to layered textiles in the form of patterned rugs, alpaca blankets, and gigantic children's pom-poms from Lima. (The couple traveled extensively to Peru with Testino, who introduced them to his native country's centuries-old design craftsmanship.) Other finds reflect Högstedt's Swedish heritage: Josef Frank pillows hail from Stockholm staple Svenskt Tenn, and various objets, such as brass candleholders and trays, are by Skultuna.

Walsh tries to limit the amount of toys strewn throughout the house, but acquiesces when they're design appropriate. A miniature white table with Herman Miller–inspired chairs makes for a perfect tea party spot in the dining room, and a childhood armchair reupholstered in a Liberty print blends in next to the ornate brass fireplace. Her favorite perch for nestling Jude is a folding butterfly chair in the living room, using a coffee table Högstedt made with *Vogue* magazines stacked under a plate of glass as a footrest. "We love the combination of whimsical and clever," says Walsh. "We don't take our home too seriously. Life is short and you should smile at the things around you."



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Dark wood and striped wallpaper set the backdrop for softer Scandi touches in the dining room (above), while the children's nook (right) is filled with travel finds, such as a dream catcher brought back from Tulum, Mexico. Opposite: In the office, iconic Richard Avedon portraits hang next to vintage pieces, like a framed knit American flag.

This page: Stripe Wallpaper tempaperdesigns.com; Moroccan Rug abchome.com; Dining Table organicmodernism.com; Wishbone Chairs by Hans J. Wegner \$595 dwr.com; Vase Dagg by Carina Seth Andersson \$360 svenskttenn.se; Kids' Mid-Century Modern Table Set by UrbanMod \$300 amazon.com; Biedermeier Candlesticks by Ted Muehling erbutler.com; Ilse Bowls \$95-\$195 georgjensen.com; Babette Pillow, Alice Pink Pillow, Check Ikat Lumbar Pillow, Ilse Throw \$78-\$150 shopthemansion.com; Zerray Pillow \$275 boleroadtextiles.com. Opposite: Nadja by Mario Testino; In the American West by Richard Avedon; Antique Danish Stools adelaideny.com.



MORE IS MORE

How to go bold in your own space

FIND ART EVERYWHERE

Walsh curated a mix of works that range from high-end fashion prints to flea-market finds, adding visual interest and variety.

GET FUNNY

Bring levity to any room with quirky olor, furniture, or art. "We love silly accents amid cleaner lines," she says.

LAYER IT ON

The stylist deftly combines different textiles—Liberty prints, John terian bedspreads, Moroccan rugs—with an "organized chaos"

MAKE ONE THING POP

t a piece of furniture sing while the emainder plays a supporting role. Choose your investment item and decorate to it," Walsh suggests.



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