

# INSPIRED

29

**The 65 Best Home Decorating Ideas of All Time Part Two**

House Tour: a Young Bachelor's Architecturally-inclined DC Loft

**Prefab Tiny Homes by Muji Are Coming to Japan**

Visually Inspired



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**WHAT'S  
INSIDE?**

The 65 Best Home  
Decorating Ideas of All  
Time Part Two

House Tour: a  
Young Bachelor's  
Architecturally-inclined  
DC Loft

Prefab Tiny Homes by  
Muji Are Coming to  
Japan

Visually Inspired



*The*  
**SIXTY-FIVE**

# HOME DECORATING IDEAS OF ALL TIME

**2/2**

Part Two  
of Two

*How many do  
you already  
know?*

Whether you're decorating your first home or your fifth, great design is in the details. We've consulted top designers and scoured our archives to find the best ideas for every room in the house.

32/65

## KEEP BEDROOM FABRICS SIMPLE

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According to Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz, people should be the ones adding the pattern and texture to a bedroom – not the fabrics.

33/65

## PAIR WOOD WITH WHITE

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Jessie Black's formula for creating an elegant bedroom? Wood, white and natural light. Drenched in sunlight, the warmth and patina of wood juxtaposed with the the fresh crispness of white paint and decor is a show-stopper.

34/65

## YOUR CHAIRS DON'T HAVE TO MATCH



Select a large-scale lead chair at your dining table to up the drama. Emilie Munroe of Studio Munroe recommends picking a style that's complimentary to the side chairs to really wow guests.

35/65

## CENTER YOUR FURNITURE ON A RUG



If you're setting furniture - like a dining table - in the middle of the room, your rug should be big enough so that all the furniture, including chairs, fits comfortably on top, according to Janice Simonsen, design spokesperson for IKEA U.S. In large living rooms, however, it's OK to have just the front legs on the rug.

36/65

## CREATE AN INVITING ENTRYWAY WITH MIRRORS



Your front hall is the first thing people see - so Dana Gibson suggests you make it inviting with a mirror and furnishings that foreshadow what's to come in the rest of the house.

37/65

## BRING LIGHTING OUTSIDE



To create a cozy indoor atmosphere outside, Mary McDonald litters her yard with candles and lanterns. They up the romance factor, too.

38/65

## PAINT YOUR CLOSETS



Lisa Adams of LA Closet Design is one of Hollywood's favorite closet designers. To make closets she creates even more luxe, she paints the metal trim or ceiling gold.

39/65

## FILL YOUR FIREPLACE



To make the most of a non-working fireplace, Sarah Gibson and Jacqueline Brown of Made For Tuesday suggest filling it with lots of pillar candles of varying sizes. For a more stylized look, add candle holders or bases, which add shape and height to the candle landscape.



40/65

## MAKE A ROOM LOOK BIGGER WITH WHITE FURNITURE



In a small space, Kevin Byrne selects white furniture, which makes any room look bigger than it is.

41/65

## MAXIMIZE DAYLIGHT WITH MIRRORS



To maximize daylight - and to visually increase square footage - Jon Call of Mr Call Designs relies on large scale mirrors.

42/65

**EDIT, EDIT, EDIT**

J Randall Powers has a motto in his office: "If you look at it and you question it - put it away."

43/65

**REMEMBER THE RULE OF THREES**

Kazuko Hoshino of Studio William Hefner employs one of writing's most famous rules in her design: Arranging decorative pieces like candles, vases, table plants or flowers in groups of threes.

44/65

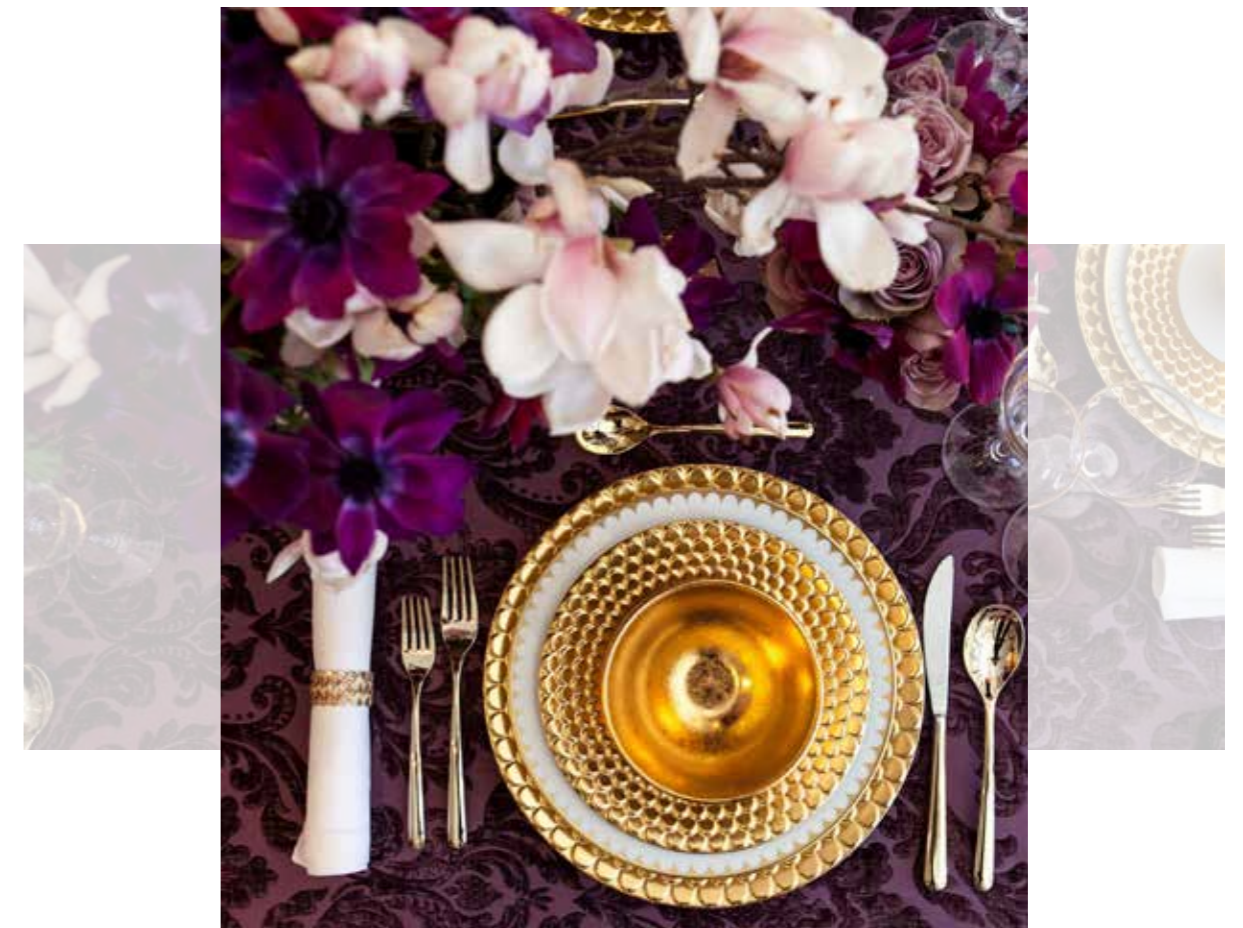
## CHANGE YOUR COFFEE TABLE DECOR REGULARLY



When it comes to styling coffee tables, try Meredith Baer's formula: Start with something large in the middle, like a floral arrangement in an interesting pot, or a huge bowl filled with a collection. Then, build out from that with stacks of art books, candles, sculptures or pottery.

45/65

## COLOR COORDINATE



When creating a tablescape, Ron Wendt starts by choosing a linen. Then, he uses flowers or candles in a deeper or lighter hue to give the table a bold, completed look.

46/65

## MIX AND MATCH CHINA



Instead of buying a formal china set, Alex Papachristidis creates an eclectic look by mixing and matching dishes.

47/65

## CHOOSE NEUTRAL UPHOLSTERY



When Lili Hart buys upholstery, she always selects a neutral shade, then uses pillows and throws to add color and pattern to the room. Change them out according to the seasons – just like you would with your clothes.



48/65

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE CEILING

Your front hall is the first thing people see – so Dana Gibson suggests you make it inviting with a mirror and furnishings that foreshadow what's to come in the rest of the house.

49/65

## DON'T FOLLOW TRENDS



“If your neighbors are doing it, you probably shouldn’t,” says designer Summer Thornton. “You can use plenty of traditional pieces as the core, but always intentionally do something that throws it off just a bit!”

50/65

## LAYER UP



For a layered look that combines fun and function, Jennifer Wagner Schmidt of JWS Interiors and ELEVATE Design Collective adds a chunky knit throw or a soft Moroccan wedding blanket to a sofa or chair.

51/65

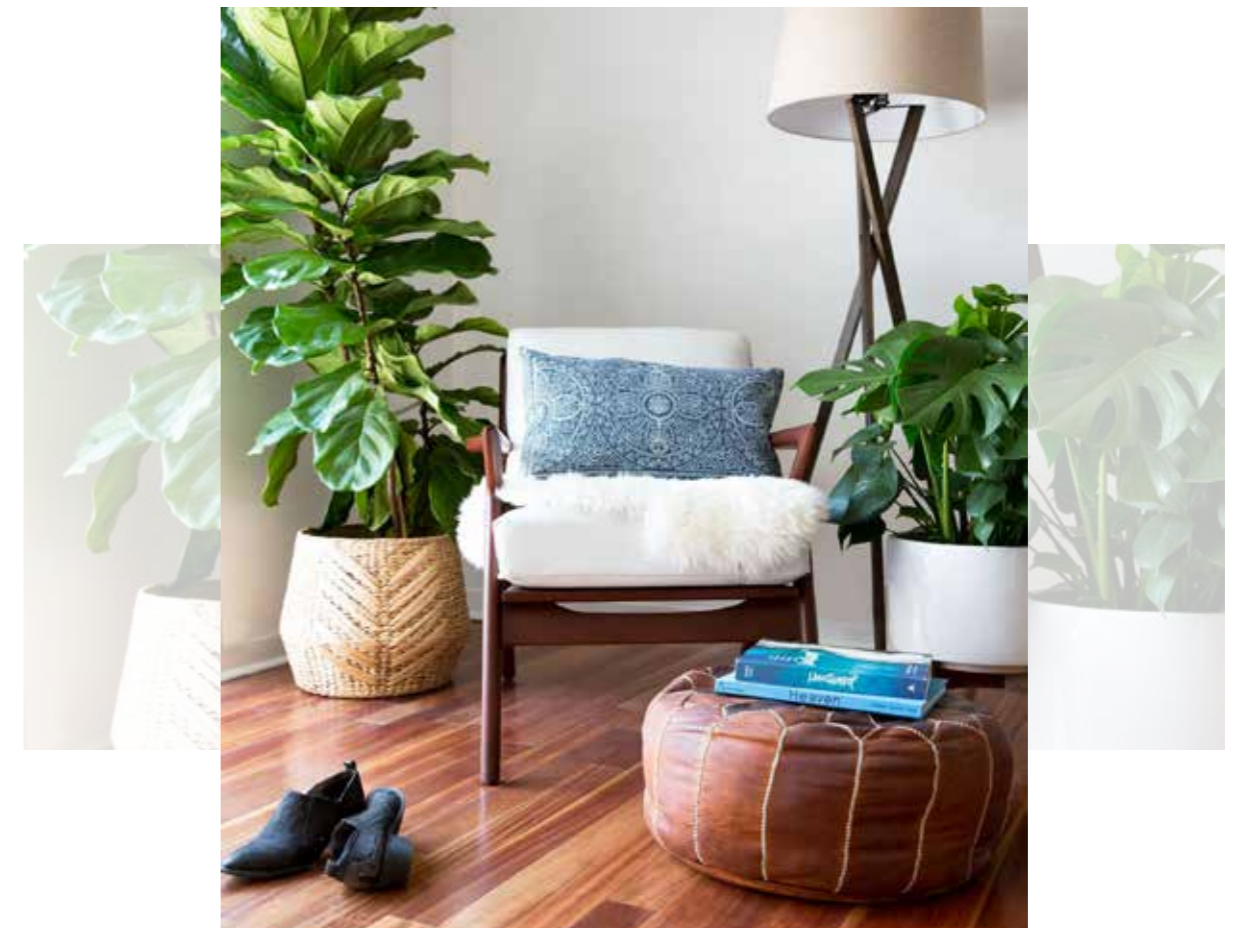
## DIM THE LIGHTS



One lighting rule Bunny Williams never breaks? Control overhead lights with dimmer switches.

52/65

## ADD GREENERY



Bring the outside in. Ashley Redmond of Decorist uses plants to add color, texture, and life to every room.

53/65

## HANG CURTAINS HIGH



To elongate visual ceiling height the way stilettos seem to add inches to a leg, Elaine Griffin hangs curtains as close to the ceiling line as she can get them.

54/65

## BRING LIGHTING OUTSIDE

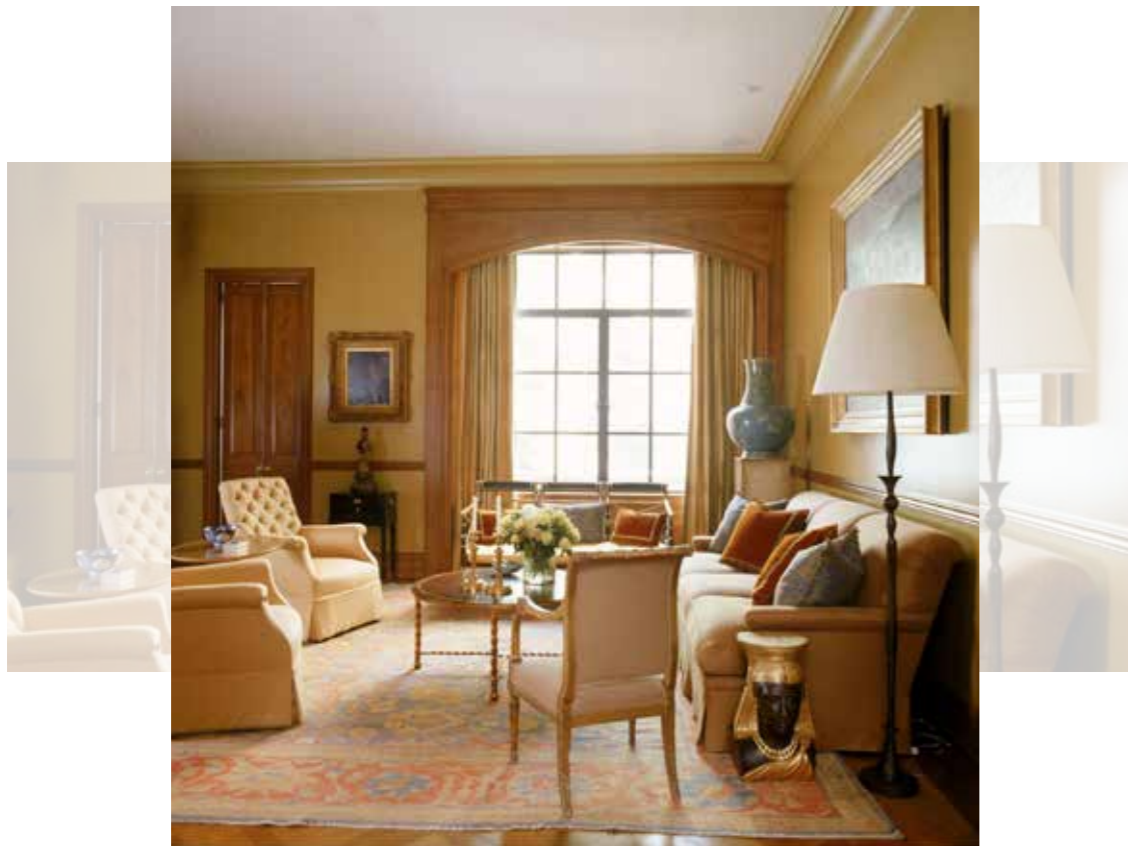


Rather than buying draperies in patterns, designs or florals - which date a room very quickly - Randal Weeks of Aidan Gray Home buys two colors and changes them out seasonally.



55/65

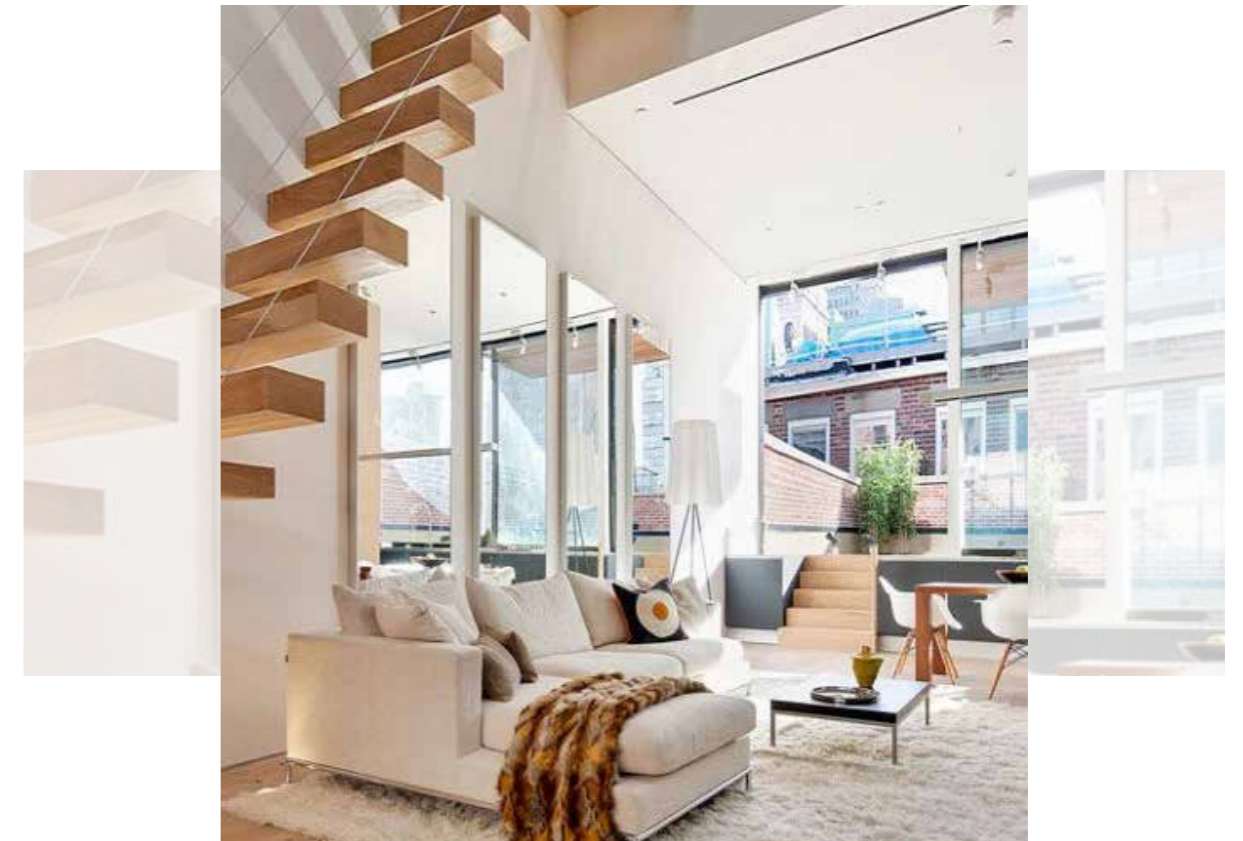
## REMEMBER THAT NEWER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER



Thomas Jayne chooses old carpets - which offer more interesting texture and a wider range of nuanced colors - over new ones.

56/65

## EXPAND A ROOM WITH RUGS



"The bigger the area rug, the bigger the room will feel."  
- Cheryl Eisen

57/65 —

**START  
COLLECTING NOW**

Your front hall is the first thing people see - so Dana Gibson suggests you make it inviting with a mirror and furnishings that foreshadow what's to come in the rest of the house.

58/65

## MASTER THE ART OF THE MIX



An antique, a piece of modern art, and an unexpected touch of whimsy pull any room together, according to Sarah Vaile of Sarah Whit Interior Design.

59/65

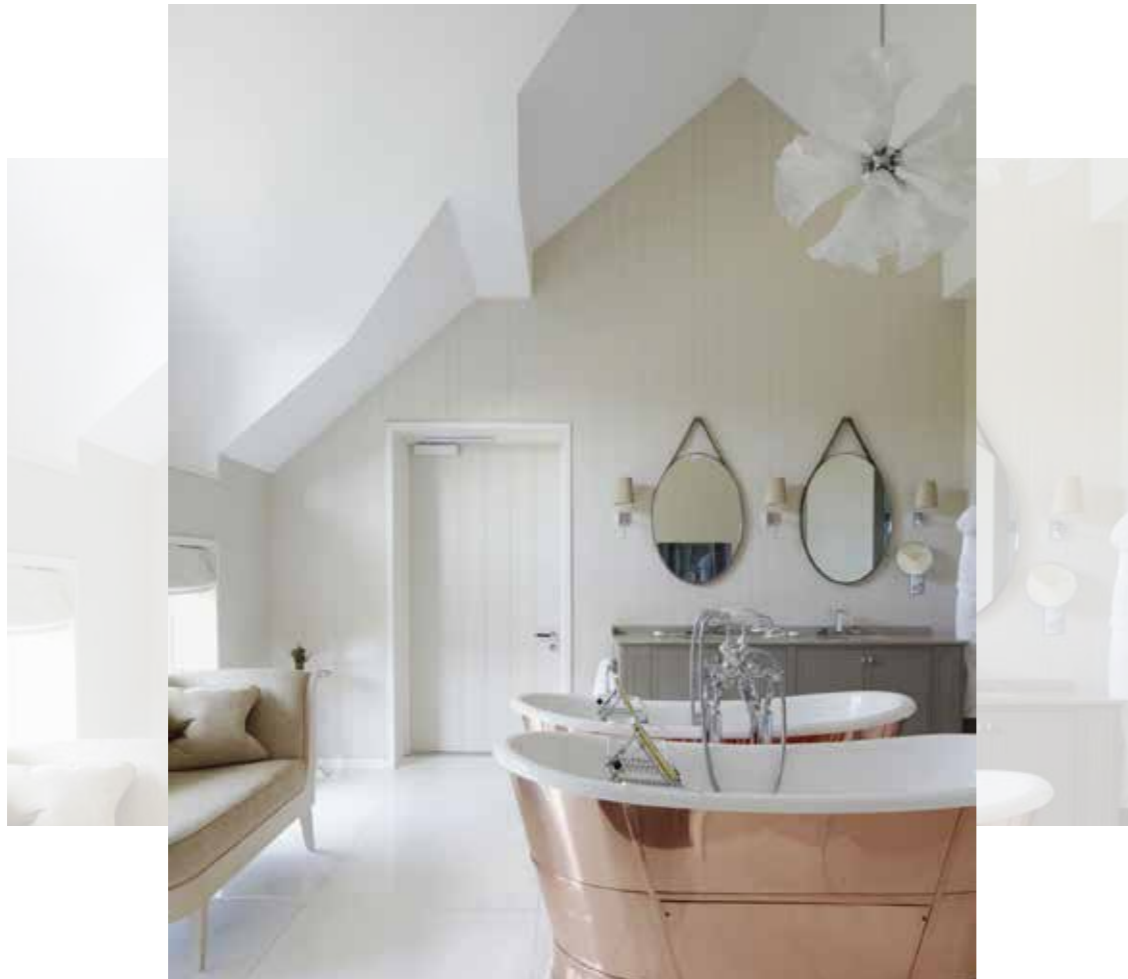
## SPILL-PROOF YOUR SPACE



To kid-proof kitchens, Jen Going sends upholstery fabrics to be treated with a vinyl-tex finish – it makes them completely wipeable and impervious to anything your kids can spill.

60/65

## MIX TEXTURES



To make metallic pieces shine, Natalie Kraiem mixes metals and mirrors with softer textures – like mohair, velvet, and wool – to up the contrast.

61/65

## GROUP ANTIQUES BY COLOR



There's a fine line between kitschy and curated. Rebecca Robertson unifies vintage and new pieces by grouping them by color.

62/65

## FIND BALANCE



Don't mistake eclectic style for "anything goes." Joybird recommends putting a cap on the number of contrasting styles in each room to avoid a cluttered feeling.

63/65

## WARD OFF PAINT FUMES



"If you hate the odor associated with paint, add a drop or two of vanilla extract to each gallon of paint," Kristen Chuber, marketing manager of Paintzen explains. "This will bring a much more pleasant aroma to the room you're painting."

64/65

## OPT FOR CARPET OVER WOOD



In a bedroom, opt for wall-to-wall carpet, which stops foot traffic from becoming a nuisance, Harry Heissmann of Albert Hadley Inc. advises. The only exception? Beach houses, where wood floors are fine.

65/65

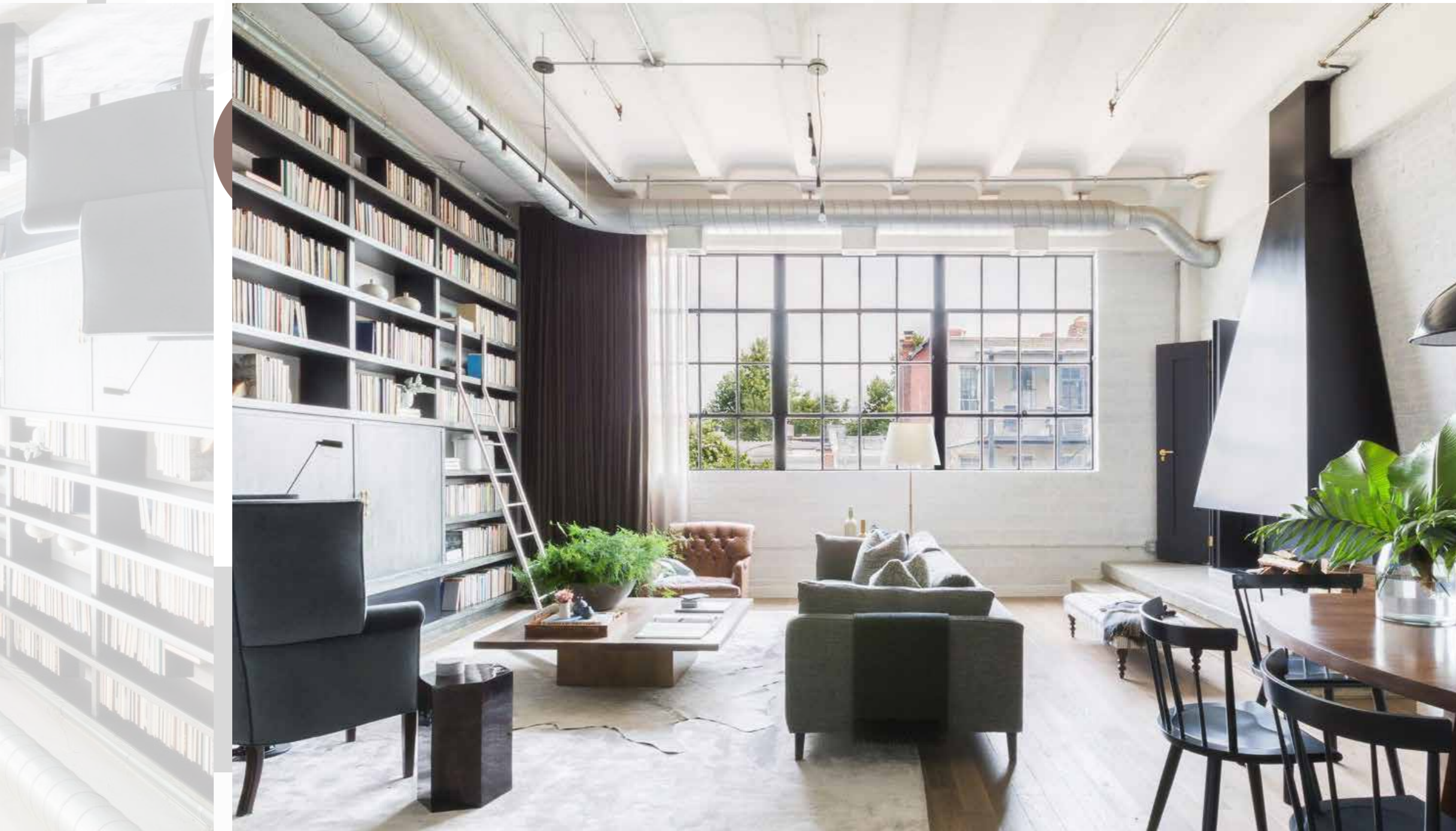
## FORGET THE FORMAL GRID



For a looser, salon-style gallery wall that feels collected, designer Lauren Liess recommends starting at the center and moving outward. To keep the display from feeling haphazard, pick an overarching theme or color like the bedroom gallery wall Liess created here using pressed botanicals in a palette of black, white, and tan.

# house tour:

In an old autobody shop, designer Christina Cole crafts a grown-up space for a budding art collector.



There are a lot of firsts in life that signal a new era—your first driver’s license, the first time you need a vehicle that can fit the whole family, and for a young, real estate developer and serial investor, the first time you’re in the financial position to start building your own art collection.



“Everything stayed with his prior residence,” explains Cole, which allowed for a clean departure from the traditional row home he was vacating. “Will is a tailored type of person, but this condo is a lot more urban than where he lived before,” she says of the former paint and autobody shop that had been retrofitted into industrial residences. “The historic element appealed to him, and having spent time in New York, he was attracted to the space’s loft-like aesthetic.”

When Will Lansing, founder of Valor Development, a boutique urban development firm in Washington, D.C., purchased an airy loft in the city’s trendy Logan Circle neighborhood, he turned to a trusted friend to bring this “first” to life.

“We’ve evolved together,” said Austin-based designer Christina Cole. “We started young when I worked with him on one of his first developments, which was also one of my first projects. Then versus now, he’s able to afford more investment pieces, and there was a real interest in using this design to start collecting original art and vintage furnishings that he would hold onto going forward,” she adds. “This was at the heart of how we approached the design.”





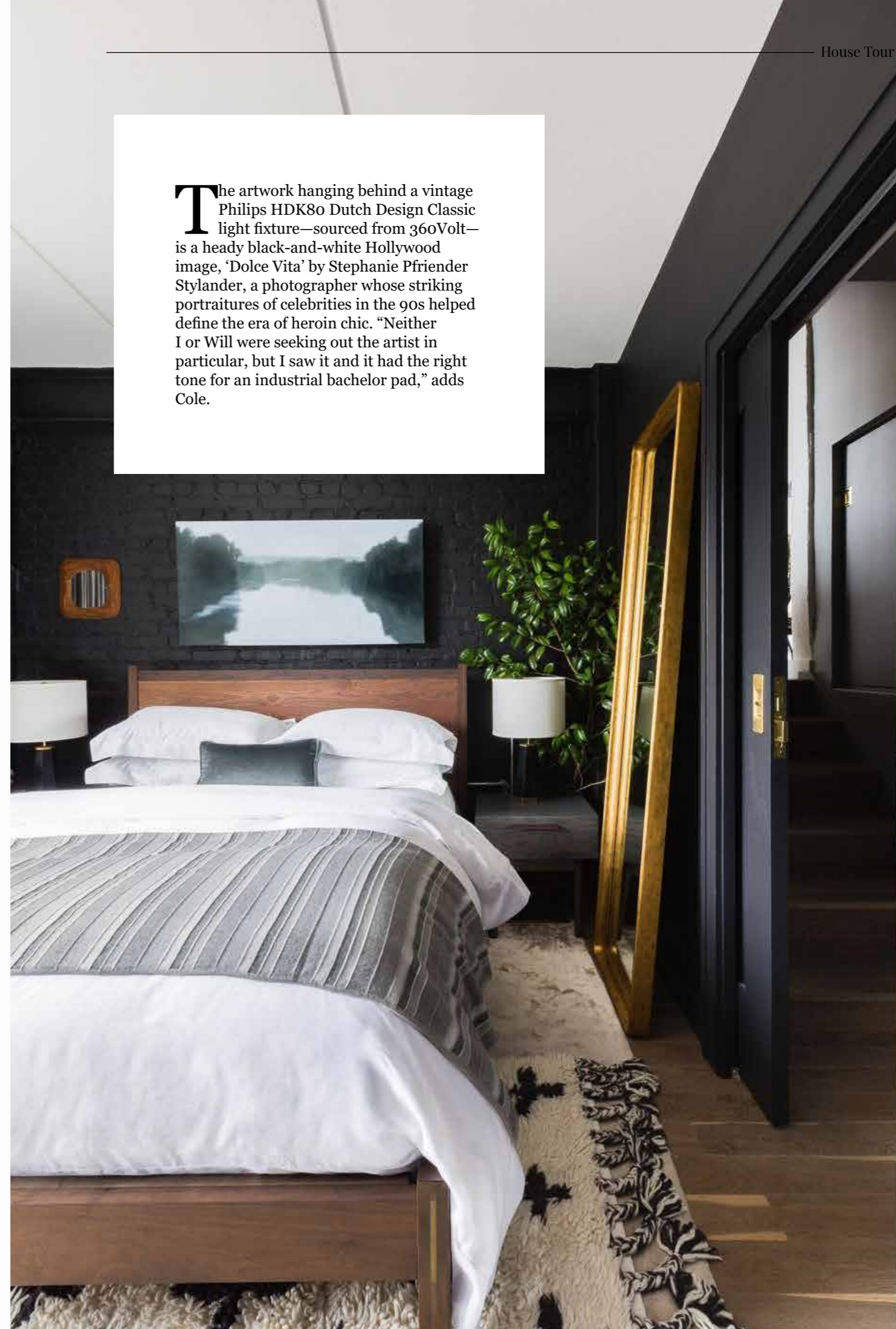
**E**nveloped in original and patinaed materials—like exposed brick and a wall of steel windows which hinge open by the pull of a chain—the one-bedroom plus den had plenty of volume and character. This would end up dictating a lot of the design, as the space needed architectural elements with significant scale that could hold the room.



“From that, we developed the idea of the sculptural hood and screen-like bookcase,” Cole says of the two elements, both of which rise from floor-to-ceiling and provide opposing focal points in the loft’s main living quarters, one in front of the couch, the other directly behind.

“It’s a bachelor pad so that explains the masculine palette and undertones,” says Cole, but the furnishings would also need to perform to Will’s lifestyle. “He has a dog, he likes to entertain, and he’s in and out with luggage,” she adds. The mix is heavily mid-century modern with contemporary and classic silhouettes, like a Montauk sofa dressed in dusty grey Fabricut upholstery and a custom, solid walnut dining table, “durable luxury,” says Cole.

The artwork hanging behind a vintage Philips HDK80 Dutch Design Classic light fixture—sourced from 360Volt—is a heady black-and-white Hollywood image, ‘Dolce Vita’ by Stephanie Pfriendler Stylander, a photographer whose striking portraits of celebrities in the 90s helped define the era of heroin chic. “Neither I or Will were seeking out the artist in particular, but I saw it and it had the right tone for an industrial bachelor pad,” adds Cole.





The loft's only other room is a petite-sized office, and sometimes second bedroom, that resides slightly elevated, just off the main living space. "It's a very cool sequence to go from a really large, open loft into a tight, intimate space where he can work," notes Cole. First and foremost, Will needed storage, so soaring floor-to-ceiling shelves were installed and painted the same moody shade—Sherwin-Williams Black Magic—as the master bedroom.

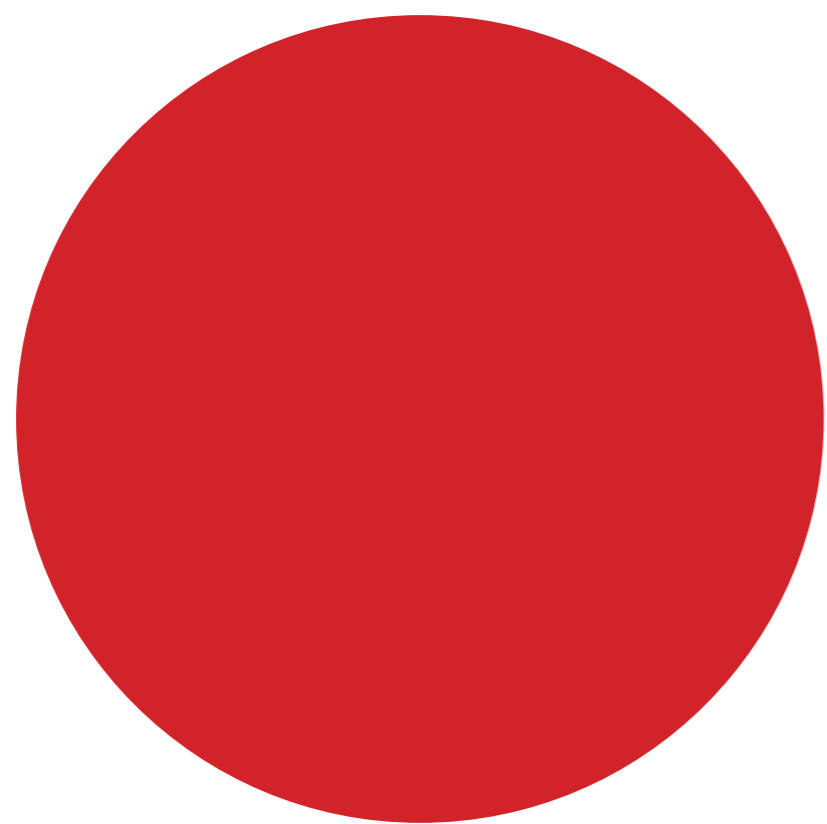


For the master bedroom, Cole wasn't at all perturbed when Will called her up requesting black walls. "I said, 'good,' black and white is always good," she explains. The French white oak floors (which run throughout the entirety of the loft) helped to soften the room, but to create drama and contrast, Cole opted for clean, white sateen bedding from Tribute Goods and a muted installment from Tennessee-based landscape artist Megan Lightell.

To service an ever-rotating arrival of out-of-town guests, a murphy bed was a must, followed by furnishings that could accommodate the space restrictions when it was down. A lacquered brass desk from Lawson Fenning—“its thin frame fit the industrial aesthetic,” said Cole—is finished with a vintage T. H. Robsjohn-Gibbins chair whose leather-bound seat and white oak frame accommodates the loft’s mid-century aesthetic.



Will, Cole notes, is young and is easily able to move between spaces, “this is by no means his forever home,” she says, adding that it will someday become part of his portfolio. And though it is the first time he’s “heavily considered and contemplated his art,” Cole notes, it isn’t the first time the bachelor has leaned toward more storied architecture. “All the places he’s lived in are very special places with lots of historic integrity, and for this, the design wasn’t ever meant to be centered around one particular aesthetic, but rather it was, ‘what does the existing architecture dictate?’”



# PREFAB TINY HOMES

**BY MUJI**  
ARE COMING TO JAPAN

*We can't imagine a more  
serene living space.*



Minimalist homewares “Mecca”, MUJI, has long served as a design destination for spare, artful furnishings and home accessories. Now, the Japanese brand is poised to expand their design philosophy further, extending their aesthetic from items within the home, to the living space itself with a new line of prefabricated tiny homes.

The cult design label announced the MUJI Hut concept in fall of 2015, and fans have been waiting on tenterhooks for the product to reach the market ever since. Now, it's finally here — but only if you live in Japan. If the company plans to release the tiny home line elsewhere, they are keeping it to themselves.

True to MUJI's signature minimalist style, the 97-square-foot MUJI Hut living spaces are defined by clean lines and utilitarian materials. The exterior is clad in burnt cedar, while the interior is simply finished in Japanese cypress. The floors are plain mortar. Every inch of the architecture is intended for function, from the slightly angled roof to shed water, to the sheltered porch.

Inside, there's just enough room for a bed and a wood-burning stove. Large double doors flood the space with light, while a small secondary window provides a cross-breeze. Prospective Hut-owners can expect to pay ¥3,000,000 for the home, or roughly \$27,000, in addition to any costs associated with construction or land development.



***visually inspired.***

**REUBEN WU**  
Photography



