

ELLE DECOR

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THE DESIGNERS AT HOME ISSUE

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THREE'S COMPANY

Architect Andre Herrero designs a chic West Hollywood pied-à-terre for his sweetheart and her sister.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS MOTTALINI



Fixing up a house can be a romantic endeavor. Andre Herrero, a founder of the architecture and design studio Charlap Hyman & Herrero, discovered this when designing an apartment for his girlfriend, Paige Zollars, who works in fashion. In 2020, Zollars and her sister, Laura, a music manager, purchased a West Hollywood duplex that was “ugly as sin,” Herrero says. Untouched since the 1970s, it had a dated ski-chalet aesthetic and a suffocating layout. “I’m so grateful Andre came with us to view it,” Paige says. “Only an architect could have seen the potential.”

Herrero took it down to the studs and built

it into a modern home of muted hues and airy spaces. Things got more layered when Herrero introduced his favorite materials—stainless steel and metal mesh—throughout the home, helping to distinguish areas by use: “We hate open floor plans for small apartments,” Herrero says. “Everything feels smaller.”

Cheeky art enlivens the apartment, while American antiques ground it. Everything was done on a shoestring budget without sacrificing quality. “We were crafty with our resources and took advantage of architectural quirks,” Herrero says. “Things that seem like negatives can contribute to a more romantic narrative.”

MAKING A LIVELY MIX

1. Playful works of art balance out serious antiques throughout the apartment. In the living room, an Olivia Erlanger sculpture of a room within an eye hangs above the sofa. Intensely surreal, it recalls the dollhouses both sisters played with as children.

2. In the convivial spirit, a pair of 19th-century Queen Anne-style side tables provide space to work or eat from the sofa. ▷

"We wanted
somewhere
to relax
and reset."
—Laura Zollars



KEEPING IT HIGH-TECH

3. A series of material interventions—like metal mesh and stainless steel—take cues from historic interiors while remaining freshly up to date. In front of the kitchen, white metal mesh folding screens inspired by Pierre Chareau and Bernard Bijvoet's modernist 1932 *Maison de Verre* delineate space without blocking natural light. Framed paper cut-outs by Herrero's business partner, Adam Charlap Hyman, hang easily on a perforated panel.

4. Two significant Pierre Legrain armchairs of the same period as *Maison de Verre* offer movable seating and visual gravity in the living room.

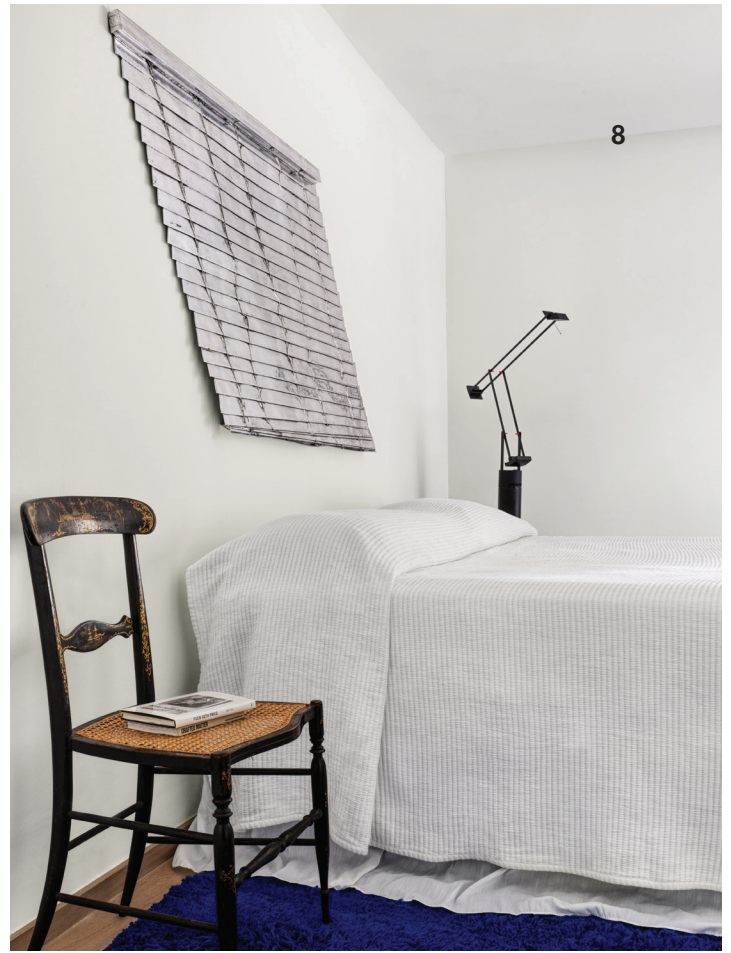
5. "I try to create a bit of drama in every space I do," Herrero says. "I want an emotional look." Flanked by sculptural Lucky Star candles, the striking double-height steel fireplace is an homage to the Paris home of one of Yves Saint Laurent's muses, Betty

Catroux. Hidden behind it is a large-screen TV.

6. "The kitchen was a disaster," Herrero says. Barely functional before the renovation, it is now rendered spacious by the use of under-stair storage and smart shelving above the stove. A 19th-century French Directoire candelabra by the sink is the perfect foil to the industrial Zangra pill-shaped ceiling lights. ▶



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SAVING SPACE

7. To introduce some theatricality into Paige's bedroom, linen was hung behind the bed, which is topped by a vintage kimono pillow and bookended by Adirondack twig tables: "We loved their witchy quality," Charlap Hyman says.

8. "We were thinking a bit about 'High Tech,' the late-1970s and early-'80s design moment," says Charlap Hyman of the steel Anne Libby sculpture above Laura's bed. Its form, which mimics a pulled blind, adds some whimsy to the room. The rest of the decor is firmly functional: A Victorian papier-mâché chair serves as a nightstand opposite a 1972 Tizio lamp from Artemide.

9. Herrero doubled the size of the lofted study-cum-dining room, where he sits at a table made after Enzo Mari's Autoprogettazione series. Paige (left) and Laura lean on metal mesh bookshelves. A 1950s Murano bell-jar light hangs above the table. ■



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