

HGTV

magazine



**GORGEOUS
FLOWERS!**

Pretty colors, sweet
smells, & butterflies

Quick

53 updates

little moves
with major punch!

**Bright, fun finds
for your kitchen**

**16 SNEAKY
CLEANING
TRICKS**

Cut clutter fast
The secret's on page 42



Sabrina Soto

Great
looks
for less
page 75



**Makeovers
with paint**

Give it a new color,
love it forever!
(This is a flea market rescue!)

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house tours

When Rachna Patel and her husband, David, bought their Los Angeles home about two years ago, they embarked on a complete reno with Eric Olsen, their friend and architect. Starting with the kitchen, they brought all of the rooms in the 1954 house up to date. "We loved how it turned out," says Rachna, "but with black and gray floors, reclaimed wood, and metal fixtures, it felt dark and masculine. We needed help bringing in the prettiness." What Rachna had in mind, she realized, was exactly the sort of cheery style she'd seen on Emily Henderson's show, *Secrets From a Stylist*. So she shot the star an email asking if Emily was game for the job. Her reply: *Yes!*

Emily: When I first walked through the house with Rachna, I totally understood what she wanted. The industrial elements looked awesome, but the house seemed very "dude."

Rachna: Getting some color in was definitely one goal, but since we have a kid, I also told Emily I didn't want to be constantly worried about Eli getting hurt or breaking things.

Emily: We talked about that a lot. It's one reason I chose the round brass coffee table. Brass is pretty much indestructible, so it's incredibly kid-friendly.

stairwell

The key to a great gallery wall is varying frame sizes. "Add one or two really big frames—like 16 inches by 20 inches—and an art wall immediately looks high-end," says Emily. Then mix up the other sizes, and hang some horizontally, some vertically.

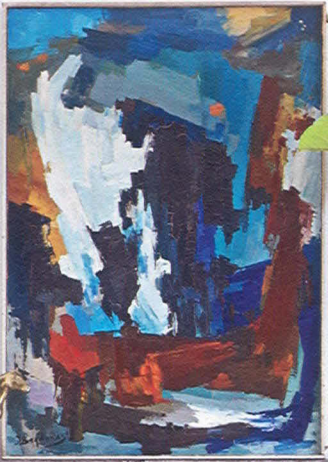
living room

To make this room warm and inviting—a place to relax after a busy day—Emily picked an assortment of pieces with rounded edges. The pouf is from Garnet Hill, and the coffee table was a flea market find. Ditto the teal armchairs, which were a steal at \$450 for the already upholstered pair. The color scheme—a mix of blues with a few pops of yellow—is repeated all around the house. "I thought we'd be adding red to warm up the gray and black, but Emily knew better!" says Rachna.



“I’m a big fan of poufs. They





Plants make
undressed
windows look
less bare.



instantly make a room feel less formal. ”



“A coffee table is the perfect height for kids.”

playroom

In this area off the living room, Emily hung inexpensive frames that she spray-painted white (Gloss White by Krylon), then gold (Gold Rush by Rust-Oleum Metallic) around the corners. Eli's artwork is taped directly to the wall, so it's easy to switch out. And the wall itself is 100% chalkboard (specialty ChalkBoard paint by Rust-Oleum).



Why not use it in a playroom? ”

Fun idea!
Hang an empty
frame, then tape
artwork to the
wall inside it.



a display of mason jars

"With so many little cubbies, this could have become the priciest unit to style ever," says Emily. "I came up with the idea to use mason jars because they're inexpensive. We painted the insides by swirling around two coats of regular house paint. I was going crazy trying to pick five blues, then I thought, *Why not just take five colors from the same paint strip?*"

David: One of the pieces Rachna and I found on our own is an old hotel mail cabinet [above]. I imagined using it to store glasses in a bar area, but Rachna and Emily had a different idea.

Rachna: We put it in the playroom, and I told Emily: "Fill this cheaply!"

Emily: They also had the blue chest. Rachna found it at a shop in Los Angeles, and it has names of Indian spices written on it, which we loved. At one point it was in the master bedroom, but it made perfect sense in the playroom filled with crayons and coloring books. The striped rug is from Dwell Studio. I picked it to keep the blue and yellow theme going.

Rachna: One thing I love about this room is you don't know if it's for a boy or a girl. We may have another child one day, and if we have a girl, we can keep everything exactly as it is.

David: Rachna and I decided on the chalkboard wall before Emily got started. We liked the idea, but it looked like a big black hole.

Emily: On such a huge expanse, chalkboard paint can look monolithic. That's why we needed all the brights.



house tours

lighting

The black and brass Tom Dixon pendants (try yliving.com) are definitely the stars of the kitchen. "They were our big splurge," says Rachna. "We hung five pendants in three different shapes, which looks less serious than just one. It feels very much like us."

A mix of shapes—
that's cool!

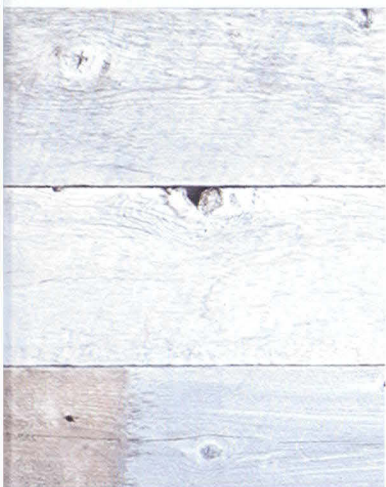
kitchen

The island's base is half wood cabinetry painted dark gray (try Sled by Behr) and half unpainted reclaimed wood from a farm in Wisconsin. The countertops are solid white Caesarstone, and they couldn't be easier to clean: Just wipe them down with soap and water.



“The afternoon sun blazes in here, so we put

breakfast nook
 Rachna and Dave got their table's steel base at an antiques store—there's a crank that moves it up and down! The store then bolted on a weathered oak top. A simple glass globe light fixture almost disappears above the table.



Emily: The kitchen was beautiful, but it had a stark feeling with the white tile, stainless steel, and white Caesarstone counters. My job in this room was more about styling tricks than decorating. They already had the breakfast nook, and even the cushions. I love a good old-fashioned stripe, but it is conservative, so I added a mix of pillows, in different shades of blue, to help make it more fun. The shades are cordless, so you just push them up or pull them down.

David: At one point we considered getting rid of the nook entirely in favor of more counter space and

cabinets, but it's become the center of the house.

Rachna: We use it for breakfast and snacks, and when Eli's friends come over, they always gravitate there. The drawers underneath are incredibly helpful. That's where we store the stuff we registered for before our wedding and never use!

Emily: The pendants in the room were in place before I started working on the house, and they're pretty great. Same with the pull-down faucet. I focused attention on accessories, like the big round cutting board that brings some warmth to the space.

up ready-made Roman shades. Affordable and timeless. ”

house tours

Emily: Rachna really wanted a girly chandelier in the house, but it seemed out of place everywhere but the bedroom. I had actually posted a similar swagging chandelier photo on my blog and Rachna really liked it, so I did it for her, too.

Rachna: It's a clever alternative to a bedside lamp. Plus, since we didn't have to drill into the ceiling, we can easily change it out. I have a remote light switch on my nightstand to turn it on and off.

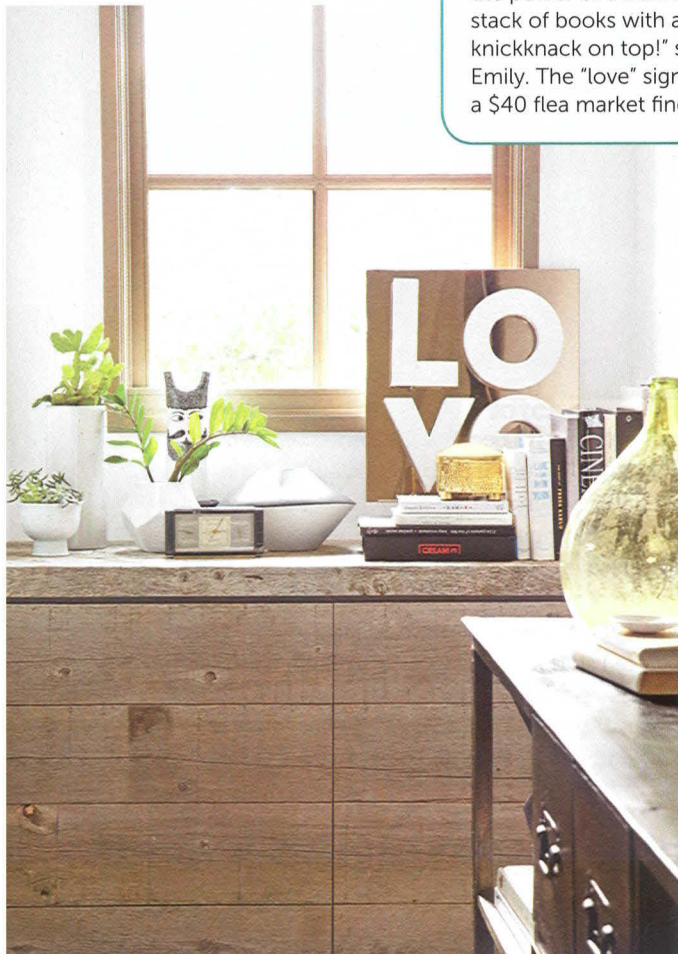
Emily: Dave's into the old-timey masculine look, so to make up for the frilly chandelier, we hung a vintage phone from a thrift store on one wall and put an old doctor's bag under the long bench. For above the bed, I found this "Smile" print on thecalmgallery.com for \$56. I wasn't sure what their reaction would be—luckily, it was a keeper.

Rachna: I thought it was just sentimental enough for a bedroom without being cheesy. That's one thing I really loved about working with Emily.

Dave and I have a sense of humor, and Emily understood how to inject some fun around the house.

wooden dresser

The trick to styling a surface is to put out a mix of shapes and sizes. "And never underestimate the power of a horizontal stack of books with a knickknack on top!" says Emily. The "love" sign was a \$40 flea market find.



“You need those throw pillows so

bedroom

A simple blue and white palette in a bedroom works every time. Emily's spin: Pepper the space with gold accents, like a lamp, a bowl, and—why not?—a bird, which was an Etsy find. The little striped bedside rug breaks up the solid wall-to-wall carpet.



your bed isn't a huge white wilderness. ”

