

## CREATING FLOW

Repetition was interior designer Jessica Davis' strategy for decorating both this open-plan living space and the rest of the house. Plants, natural woven fibers, bold vintage rugs, and large-scale artwork appear in every room.

BY AYN-MONIQUE KLAHRE

PHOTOS DAVID TSAY

STYLING LIZ STRONG

## LINKING SPACES

Davis installed shiplap around the brick fireplace to echo horizontal lines of built-ins throughout the main living area. In lieu of wide planks, she used strips of bender board. The mirror above the mantel bounces light from a skylight into this windowless side of the house.

# blank canvas

THIS CALIFORNIA HOME PROVES THAT BRIGHT AND AIRY

CAN ALSO BE COZY WHEN YOU LAYER AND REPEAT.



## BLENDING IN

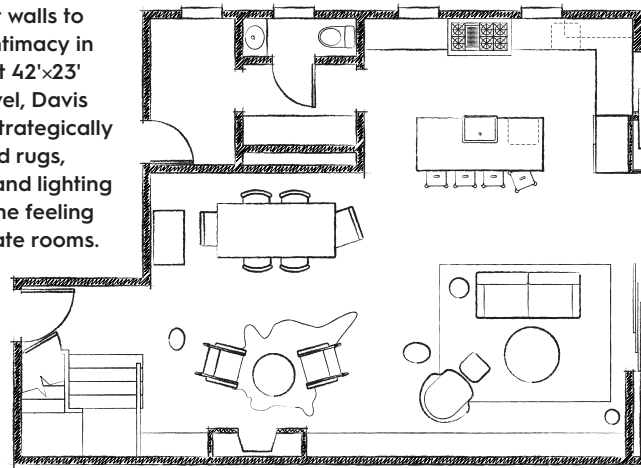
The gallery wall started with the least attractive piece: the television. "There was only one wall where it could go, so we wanted to camouflage it," Davis says. The photography, landscapes, and abstract paintings in soft colors don't vie for attention when the TV is on.



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stark white box: That was the best way to describe this new build in Santa Monica, CA, when interior designer Jessica Davis started decorating it. To warm the space for a young family, the Nest Studio designer added architectural details like shiplap and built-ins then mixed in vintage and new furnishings. Against those rich layers, the white walls now feel fresh rather than clinical. "We wanted a space that felt comfortable and collected but still had that element of California cool," she says.

Without walls to create intimacy in the vast 42'x23' main level, Davis relied on strategically placed rugs, furniture, and lighting to give the feeling of separate rooms.



## MAKING OLD NEW

Vintage rugs, like the one the homeowners fell in love with, above, "aren't usually sized for today's living," Davis says. By layering the rug on a beachy seagrass one, she was able to make it work in this large space.

Davis hits Etsy for antique rugs from countries like Turkey. (She found the kitchen runner on the site.)

## USING HEIGHT

One of Davis' favorite ways to divide an open-plan space is to change the ceiling heights and lighting. The dropped ceiling of the kitchen, for example, "makes it feel like its own room while still being open to the rest of the space," she says. The low-hung pendants underscore the division.





“A FEATURE CHANDELIER  
ANCHORS THE  
DINING SPACE, MAKING  
IT FEEL LIKE A  
SEPARATE ROOM.”

”  
INTERIOR DESIGNER  
JESSICA DAVIS

**PLAYING WITH  
DETAILS**

Pulling up two types of  
chairs to the  
farmhouse-style dining  
table energizes it.

For another touch of  
playfulness, Davis  
chose leather end  
chairs with robin's-egg  
blue legs. (The leather  
matches the sofa.)

Large-scale art  
balances the gallery  
wall at the other  
end of the room. “You  
can’t have two  
gallery walls in one  
room. It gets  
too busy,” she says.







**BOY'S BEDROOM** Paint extending three-quarters of the way up the wall creates an architectural effect, while the patterned textiles keep the attitude upbeat. "We played with scale, contrasting big triangles in the rug with smaller stripes and checks on the bed," Davis says. **BATHROOM** Blue-green cabinetry, pendant lights, and thrift store art "make the space feel less bathroom-like," she says. **PLAYROOM** For this gallery wall, she stuck with kid-friendly animal motifs and family photos. Davis repurposed the white cabinet, previously used as a dining room buffet, to hide games and toys.



In the master bathroom, Davis used subway tiles for wainscoting.



## JESSICA DAVIS' THRIFTY TIPS

To stay on budget, the designer incorporated some of her favorite high-impact, low-cost pieces.

### ART HACK

"Framing can be costly. A great way to add texture and fill space at a lower cost is to hang woven pieces." The macramé wreath in the living room was a flea market find, and the dining room wall hanging came from Etsy.

### CUSTOM WITHOUT THE PRICE TAG

Patterned window shades have a designer look, but Davis uses online retailer Spoonflower for less-expensive fabric. "I love them because you can change the base fabric, scale, and color."

### DOSES OF COLOR

She champions colorful hanging fixtures like the green pendant lights in the kitchen. "They're an inexpensive color fix."



### COZYING UP

With its dramatically high ceiling, the master bedroom needed some grounding influences. Curtains that puddle on the floor answer that need, while an upholstered bed softens the space. Davis echoed colors and textures used downstairs by incorporating blue accents, an African feather headdress (called a juju), and a leather bench from CB2. ■



Woven wood blinds add natural texture but let in light, so Davis had them lined.