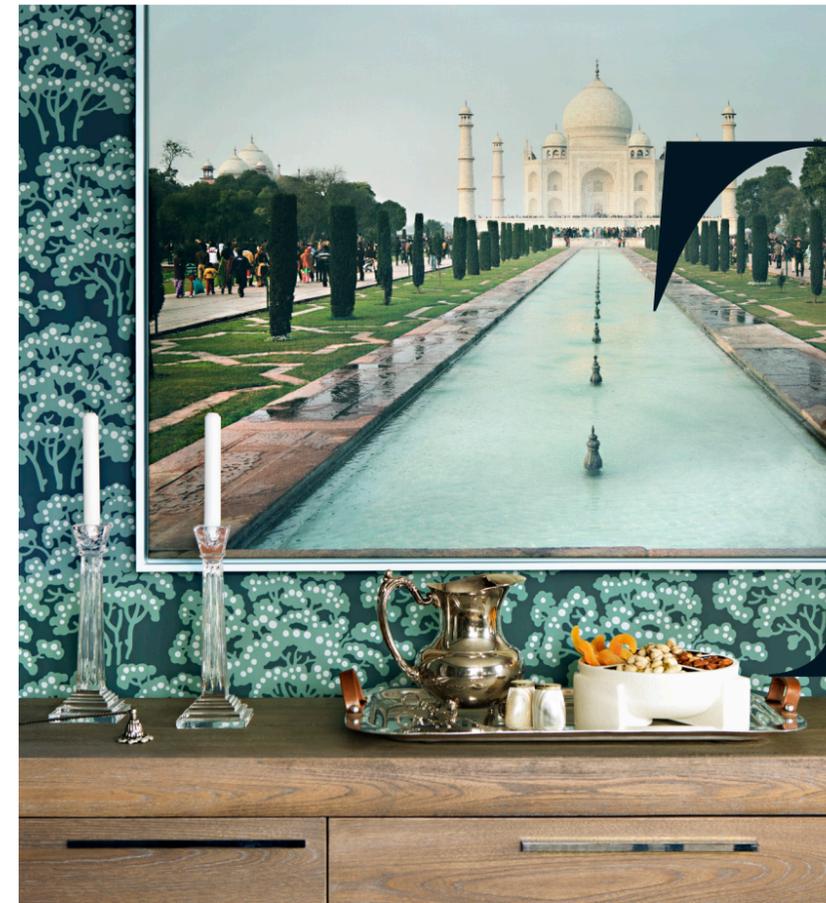


LOVE LIVES HERE

PHOTOGRAPHER KARYN R. MILLET WAS SMITTEN WITH HER NEW LOS ANGELES HOUSE—UNTIL ROMANCE CAME INTO THE PICTURE. DESIGNER JOE LUCAS MADE WAY FOR HER HUBBY WITH COZY SHARED SPACES AND A HOME OFFICE BUILT FOR TWO.



Photographer Karyn R. Millet worked with friend and designer Joe Lucas on her Brentwood, California, home. The rattan-and-brass chair is from Lucas's shop, Harbinger, with cushion fabric designed by Millet's friend Chris Barrett. The sofa is in a Ronda Carman fabric. **OPPOSITE:** The lamp by Ryan Mennealy spells out a secret word in Morse code.



ABOVE: In the dining room, the photograph of the Taj Mahal is by Millet. **RIGHT:** A window seat is covered in a fabric by Peter Dunham Textiles, and the café curtains are in a Ronda Carman wool sheer. **OPPOSITE:** Before Lucas came on board, the dining room felt like a passageway to the kitchen. “We made it feel more like a room,” Lucas says. The previously white space was transformed with wallpaper and Stiffkey Blue paint, both by Farrow & Ball. Table, Living Spaces. Chairs, RH, Restoration Hardware.



This Brentwood house used to be yours alone. Then along came your husband, Dan Shea, and his dog, Webster, with regular visits from his two college-age kids. How was that adjustment?

KARYN R. MILLET: This was my first house, which I bought not long before Dan and I met. When things got serious, I knew I had to adapt the house for my new life. Even though it’s not big, I wasn’t ready to give up on it! It still felt new to me, and I was attached to it. And Dan understood that. Once we were engaged, I called up my friend, the interior designer Joe Lucas, and asked him to redo the bedroom to make room for Dan. That was my wedding present to him. One thing led to another, and over the next couple of years, Joe ended up helping us redo the whole house.

ORLI BEN-DOR: Was it challenging to collaborate on the design of your house with a close friend?

No, it was wonderful. I’m a photographer, and I shoot interiors, so I have been inside some of the most beautiful spaces. I know dozens of designers, but until now, I had never actually worked with one. This was my first experience, and I loved it. When I looked at the presentations with all the fabrics and colors, I felt like the belle of the ball. “This is all for me?”

Joe says one of his goals was convincing you that you deserved a “decorated” house—one that looks layered and finished.

“
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It did take some convincing. Decorating is expensive! The furniture from my previous apartment was cute, and I could have lived with it. Joe’s focus was function. We went room by room, and in each phase, we started with one item on my punch list. For example, Dan needed a place to put his clothes in the bedroom. My study became his son’s room, so I had to create a new office—one that the two of us could share. In the living room, I realized that my sofa was uncomfortable. It’s funny—as a single person, you make do. But now that I had a family, it was important to upgrade. Joe made this transition so easy. He helped take this place from *my* house to *our* house, which is what I wanted—for everyone to feel at home.

Do you have a favorite room?

What I love is how the whole house works together. When we reconfigured the space, we changed the location of my home office. Now, I need to walk through the living room to get there, and I enjoy seeing my “friends” along the way—a table from Joe’s shop, Harbinger; fabric from Chris Barrett; a pillow by Sharon Lee of Krane Home; and Peter Dunham’s Fig Leaf in the office. Since I work in this industry, it’s not just “stuff” to me. Each object means something. When it’s time to get a cup of coffee, I pass back through the living room and into the dining room and kitchen, where I see more friends.

How do you feel about sharing an office with your husband?

Dan works as an investment banker, but he’s also very creative. He always wanted to be an architect, so he enjoyed working with Scott Joyce on the archi-



tectural plans. When we are in the office together, if I’m stumped between two images, he’ll roll his chair over and lend his eye. I love that I can bring out his creativity. We found each other a bit later in life, so working side by side is nice. We’re making up for lost time!

Is it even possible to have a bad work day in that cheerful space?

Not since I got the Dutch door I have always wanted! I fling it open all the time, let the fresh air in, and listen to the birds chirp. It reminds me to take a break—and to water the plants. And just outside is where Dan and I got married, high up on our perch in the backyard, which I call the Sunset Terrace.

How wonderful to have had such a special event in your own home.

Because of the wedding, every single member of both of our families has been to our house. I will never forget seeing them all come through the front door of our home and navigate their way through the house to the backyard, where everyone climbed to the top of the steps to witness our marriage.

This house has a fabulous history, doesn’t it?

Yes! We’re located on the old Rita Hayworth estate. She used to live in the big house at the top of the hill, and I heard that Humphrey Bogart would visit her here. She called her home the Happiness Hotel, so I call mine the Happy House. The other day, I was chained to my desk, and my mom called me from Newport Beach and said, ‘You have to go look at the sunset.’ So I pushed myself away from the computer, climbed up the stairs to the Sunset Terrace, and watched the sun go down from here as my mom watched it set from her place. I don’t know that Dan and I will stay here forever, but we already have so many happy memories.

LEFT, FROM TOP: A Moroccan pouf rests on a floor lined with tiles by Celerie Kemble for Mirth Studio. Millet and her husband, Dan Shea, in front of their 1954 home, originally part of actress Rita Hayworth’s estate. Lucas and architect Scott Joyce turned a former porch into the home office; they enclosed the space but kept the garden vibe with a Dutch door and trellage-fronted cabinetry from Accents of France. **OPPOSITE:** The desk chair is from Design Within Reach. Sconce, Visual Comfort. Window shades in Peter Dunham Textiles’ Fig Leaf.

PORTRAIT: BRITTANY HAYES





ABOVE: A bed from RH, Restoration Hardware is upholstered in a Holland & Sherry wool flannel, with bed curtains in a fabric by Idarica Gazzoni. Lucas opted for a pair of custom chests rather than classic nightstands for additional storage. Love seat, Bunny Williams Home. Lamps, Aerin for Visual Comfort. **RIGHT:** The view from the Sunset Terrace atop the home's tiered backyard. **OPPOSITE:** In the kitchen's breakfast area, chairs from Noir surround a Saarinen table. Tile, Mirth Studio. Art, Jeremy Houghton. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES



“
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 HOUSE TO
 OUR HOUSE.**”