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# House Beautiful

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# Buried Treasures

Armed with a passed-down proclivity for collecting cool stuff, a Charlotte, North Carolina, designer turned her home into a wonderland.

76 HOUSE BEAUTIFUL



## LIVING ROOM

"It was pretty black-and-white at first and then I gradually started adding layers," designer Ariene Bethea says of her Charlotte living room, which is grounded by a Robert Lawson painting that was her mother's. **Paint:** Smoke, Glidden. **Carpet:** Surya. **Art:** Minted (over windows), Texture Imports (seated figurine), vintage Nigerian Yoruba crown (in right window). **Curtains:** Martha & Ash, in Teresa Roche Art & Textiles fabric. **Coffee table:** Bernhardt. **Ottomans:** vintage.



interior designer Ariene Bethea / writer Hadley Keller  
photographer Brie Williams / producer Robert Rufino



**KITCHEN**  
 Since this space is one of the first you see when entering the house, Bethea scrapped a statement backsplash in favor of something more subdued but textural: a Tile Shop herringbone she installed sideways. **Stools:** Ballard Designs. **Light:** Corbett. **Rug:** Loloi. **Hardware:** Emtok. **Sink:** Elkay. **Cabinetry:** Merillat.

## “I’M A COLLECTOR FIRST,”

**SAYS ARIENE BETHEA. THAT ATTITUDE IS THE** foundation of her layered Charlotte, North Carolina, shop, Dressing Rooms InteriorsStudio, which stocks an ever-evolving assortment of vintage and new home wares. But it also rings true in the colorful, art-filled home she shares with her husband (and dog).

Bethea’s methodology is simple: “I only buy things that I love, whether for my house or the store. It’s not necessarily what’s on trend at the time; if I love it, I’m gonna purchase it.” The result is a delightfully eclectic mix—some of the motifs and styles Bethea gravitates toward are animals, crown molding, layered textures, and 1970s art.

And while her current profession requires regular treasure hunting, Bethea’s love of collecting dates back to childhood. Her parents and grandparents each had a discerning eye. At home, Bethea mixes her own finds with their family heirlooms: a 1960s Milo Baughman sofa (in its original upholstery!) that her mother purchased on layaway,

a metal dining set of her grandparents’ that Bethea revived with fabric remnants. Finding this mix comes naturally: “That’s just how I grew up,” she recalls. “We had masks, we had midcentury art, Asian art, African art, and abstract art, and it was all mixed together.”

Setting the backdrop to Bethea’s collection is an array of rich jewel tones, as well as detailed fixtures and molding—despite the home being a (now 15-year-old) new build. Her admiration for such ornate architectural details comes from the seven years she spent living in Boston, where she fell in love with historic New England homes. “I added that heavy molding wherever I could,” she says. “Double molding, double crown—I fell in love with that style.”

In Bethea’s hands, these traditional accents are anything but stuffy; instead, they provide a supporting framework for a perfectly personal home that, as Bethea says, “fits how we live and showcases the things that are important to us as a family.” ■

OFFICE

Sherwin-Williams Framboise paint enlivens the office. **Table and chairs:** 1970s Gastone Rinaldi from Bethea's grandparents, the latter in vintage fabric. **Pillows:** MD Home Collection. **Art:** Erica Michele (left) and vintage (right). **Vase:** vintage.



Coventry  
banquette  
sectional, from  
\$539. [ballard  
designs.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)



  
Hexsation  
pendant  
by Corbett  
Lighting, from  
\$3,590. cor-  
bettlighting.  
hvigroup.com

**DINING AREA**  
Betha sourced the  
collection of masks from  
a fellow vintage dealer  
and displayed them in  
a riff on the gallery wall  
of her childhood home.  
**Table:** Caracole. **Chairs:**  
Universal Furniture.  
**Carpet:** Surya. **Side-  
board:** Bernhardt.  
**Vases:** vintage (left),  
West Elm (right).



**LOUNGE**

A Milo Baughman sofa from Bethea's mother finds new life in this moody space, where it's paired with an ornate gilded mirror and an antique tapestry gifted from a client. **Paint:** Tricorn Black, Sherwin-Williams. **Mirror, sofa, elephant table, and lamps:** vintage. **Throw pillows:** custom. Jackie Rae Studios.

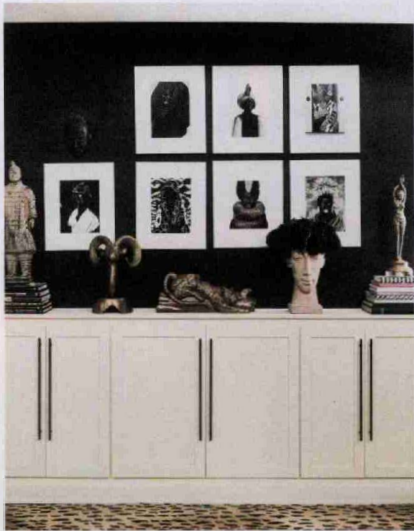
**BATH**

A skirted vanity and raffia mirror from [Texture Imports](#) pop alongside a punchy wall color. **Paint:** Salsa, Benjamin Moore. **Art:** framed prints of Josephine Baker. **Skirt fabric:** Maharam.



**Dressing Rooms Interiors Studio**

Bethea's vibrant shop is filled with ever-changing vignettes of vintage furniture and decor. 2120 N. Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte, NC [dressingroomsinteriorsstudio.com](http://dressingroomsinteriorsstudio.com)



**ENTRY**

**Paint:** Tricorn Black, Sherwin-Williams. **Sideboard:** custom. **Art:** Zanele Muhöli. **Sculptures:** [Banner Nursery & Garden Center](#) (head, topped with a featherduster) and vintage.



BEDROOM

"This room was originally a really light blue," Bethea says. "But I realized after living in it that I didn't like waking up in a bright room." A hotel stay prompted the shift to a "moodier" hue, which Bethea found by mixing several Sherwin-Williams colors. **Art, mirror, mannequin, and sofa:** vintage. **Throw pillow:** MD Home Collection. **Bedspread:** Etsy. **Bolsters:** Swank Home Interiors. **Lamp:** Dressing Rooms Interiors Studio.





