



A SAN FRANCISCO DESIGNER'S ECLECTIC ABODE REFLECTS HER LOVE OF COLLECTING

# CREATIVE CURATION

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY **JOHN MERKL**

Natural light pours into the space from expansive windows that give the occupants an unobstructed view of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. The rooms — though compact in the just under 1000-square-foot apartment — are appointed with an eclectic mix of modern touches and vintage finds reflecting the duality of the historic yet forward-thinking city.

“That’s just kind of our aesthetic — we like modern things, but we also love things that have a soul,” Lichtenstein says. “We want them to evoke a history, and in our projects, we find the best way to do that is mixing eras and including things that have stories to them to make it feel like a real home.”

Long a collector, Lichtenstein has gathered an assemblage of items that bring that spirit to the space. Many of them were finds she hoped to use in a future project, but never found the right home for until decorating her own. For instance, in the main living area, a dairy safe she procured in Round Top, Texas, now serves as a bar.

“I had no idea what we would do with it, but it was too cool

to not take home,” she says. “The combination lock still works, and it has all these hidden compartments and stuff.”

Another find that made its way into the apartment is a vintage glass-top dining table.

“I thought, ‘that is the sexiest thing I’ve ever seen’ — it’s straight from the ‘70s,” she says. “I was trying to place it in a project, and there was no project at the time. So I just waited a few days and thought, ‘if I can’t find a home for it, I’ll buy it.’”

Newer pieces tend to offer additional functionality for the small space, like the pull-out sofa, coffee table and pouf in the guest room. When the bed is pulled out, the low-slung table and pouf fit neatly beneath the bed frame.

Aside from the space constraints, Lichtenstein also felt challenged to create a space that spoke to both her and her techie husband’s aesthetics. That meant a delicate balance between more masculine touches like the plaid fabric on the settee and glam details like an eye-popping black-and-gold wallpaper pattern from Tempaper.



“**I always say that I’m not an artist, but I am a good curator.**

—Alicia Lichtenstein



*(Opposite page, left-right)* Lichtenstein uses brass throughout the space to add a metallic pop; the colors in the Pendleton blanket on the bed complement the gallery wall paintings.

*(This page, clockwise from top)* The apartment is a rental, so Lichtenstein uses removable Tempaper to add color without painting; Lichtenstein chose a masculine plaid for the settee to counter more feminine touches in the room; a vintage creamery safe offers stylish storage in the petite pad; Lichtenstein mixes vintage objects with plants to liven up built-in shelving.



Because she’s always searching and collecting, Lichtenstein tends to tweak the design regularly based on new finds. That fluidity not only feeds her creativity but also keeps the home fresh and inviting for both her family and guests.

“I always say that I’m not an artist, but I am a good curator,” she

says. “And that’s what I do — composition. That’s how I work, and that’s my process in this house — it was very much that balance to keep things interesting. You need to have interesting things that people may not notice the first time or the second time or the third time, things that when they do notice, they’ll think, ‘I didn’t see that before; that’s cool.’” ▶