



**HISTORICAL TOUCH.** Can you spot true home history here? Though much of the art on this staircase fits a nature motif, such as the brass insects and deer head, photographs of the original builders of this 1868 home also dot the staircase frame collection.

# The POWER of Patience

Learn how collecting décor over time, rather than filling areas quickly to appear finished, can transform the appeal of your spaces and ensure your home reflects you.

BY DANI GRACE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDMUND BARR



**AHOY!** An entryway welcomes people into your home, so why shouldn't it introduce a bit of the homeowner's personality too? The combination of well-loved boating flags, statues, vintage jewelry and extensive filing system conveys that an artistic, beach-bound and organized family lives here.



**| ABOVE | GATHER A GALLERY.** A gallery wall is the perfect first décor project for anyone starting their interior design journey. Any motif or collection of items can work as long as it reflects your style. This gallery displays the homeowner's love for old paintings of dogs and farmhouses, but could just as easily depict hundreds of other subjects.



**| LEFT | PATINAED PERFECTION.** The vintage rainbow theme established in this room aligns with the owner's desire to keep her home down-to-earth and unique. Looking to stay true to her antiques roots and the home's history, she "values personality and patina over the spit-and-polish of something new, unless it was made by an artist or craftsman," Nassauer writes.

Most people don't want their homes to feel like a hotel: stiff, impersonal, starchy. They want their home to not only be a safe and special space for them and their family, but to feel joyful and inviting for friends and guests.

Antiques connoisseur Ki Nassauer encapsulates that desire and elaborates on how to achieve that intersection in her first book, *Lived-In Style: The Art of Creating a Feel-Good Home*. Nassauer uses 12 homes of varying styles to demonstrate that crafting a personalized design isn't instantaneous manufacturing; it's a slow burn. You build the character of your style over time, amassing memories and collections simultaneously.



**| LEFT | MEDICAL ALERT.** This worn vintage medical cabinet might not be a first choice for home décor, but a true thrifter knows that a few collections, some modern items and a splash of greenery breathe new life into an unassuming piece of furniture and transform it into an eye-catching display.

**| BOTTOM | PERIOD SOUVENIRS.** This homeowner had been thrifting since she was 12 years old. When renovating her 1800s Victorian home, she drew from her decades of antiques experience and a design career at Ralph Lauren to piece together antique shell coin purses with glass bottles she found during a remodeling excavation.

"Lived-in style isn't perfect. It's mismatched and worn, used and repurposed," Nassauer writes on her website. "The result is that it's easygoing and inviting, making guests want to put their feet up and stay awhile."

Among her interviews with different homeowners, the author tosses in general styling tips—like how to seamlessly connect indoor and outdoor living spaces and what to research before embarking on a shopping trip—but also includes more detailed advice, such as the exact dimensions a photo or mirror should hang from the ground.

Ultimately, *Lived-In Style* guides readers on how to be inspired by others but still listen to their hearts to find their true internal style, avoid complicity with trends and sit comfortably with the fact that, as with all of us, the evolution of our homes is never really complete.

"Skillfully mixing and mingling your favorite colors, textures and textiles, design genres, photos and art will create spaces that are uniquely your own," Nassauer writes. "Displays can be refashioned as collections grow or change; nobody wants the feeling of living in a museum, after all." **CB**





## About the Author

Get to know Ki Nassauer's enthusiasm, expertise and experience regarding interior design.

Some designers go through phases of styles, but Ki Nassauer has always been a junkie at heart. In her decades working in furniture restoration, flea market salvaging and her passion for authentic, dazzling vintage pieces, Nassauer has created a community for like-minded antiques lovers. In 2006, she founded what has now become a statewide tradition for Minnesotan vintage lovers: "Junk Bonanza," a multi-day event where creators and vendors of various antique styles offer their design inspiration and salvaged pieces for sale.

From her role as *Flea Market Style* magazine's editor through her *Lived-In Style* magazine subscription and now book, Nassauer has become an expert on myriad interior design styles. Her two kids, three grandchildren and magazine subscribers will surely be well versed in a variety of decorating themes, DIY projects and entertaining.

**ABOVE, LEFT | BATHED IN BEAUTY.** With vast windows, weathered wooden benches and an abundance of plants, this bathroom almost doubles as a greenhouse. From the soaking clawfoot tub all the way back to the corner sink, the homeowner did her best to keep all the décor relevant to its original historic charm.

**ABOVE, RIGHT | CAGING THE LIGHT.** The best art collections reflect their owner's experiences and bring the owner constant joy. From the printed pillows and quilts to the birdcage-like chandelier, eccentric bedside lamps and oil paintings, everything in this room is its own stunning—albeit quirky—piece of art.



***Lived-In Style: The Art of Creating a Feel-Good Home*** by Ki Nassauer, published by Ryland Peters & Small, © 2023; [rylandpeters.com](http://rylandpeters.com).