

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE GRAND TOUR

## This 1927 LA Home Merges Contemporary and Eclectic Details for a Growing Family

With a furniture collection any design nerd would admire

Linne Halpern | Photography by Seth Caplan | April 28, 2023 | [Link to original article.](#)



“We’re lucky to have a lot of friends who are quite creative or professional artists. They send us ideas and we send them ideas—there’s an on-going dialogue with our fellow design nerds. They bring pieces back from their trips for us and we do the same.”

Photo Credit: Seth Caplan

Once upon a time, at the peak of pandemic-era competitive real estate of no open houses and limited 15-minute showings, Juliana Sullam and Brian Moore set out to purchase their first home. After relocating from New York City to Los Angeles, the design-minded couple was ready to put down roots. “There was no casual dating when it came to the search process,” Juliana recalls. “We had to commit with very little time, but there was a strong gut feeling when we put our bid in.” As luck would have it, that quick decision led them to becoming homeowners of this one of a kind property in the historic West Adams neighborhood. Built in 1927, the space had been carefully renovated to protect its character and was perfectly suited to the duo’s eclectic tastes.



Juliana and Brian enjoy the look of their living room, which is filled with found treasures and distinctive objects from their various travels.  
Photo Credit: Seth Caplan

Brian describes the exterior as being akin to a five-year-old's interpretation of a castle. Rounded turrets and a sloped stone roof place the architecture within the French Gothic Revival style to an exaggerated degree. "It's kind of like LA in a nutshell," he says. "There are all these houses inspired by different things from all over the world, and LA's culture is such an amalgamation of ideas from everywhere else." But it was the home's 16-foot ceilings and tastefully minimalist interior finishes that really drew in the couple. The previous owners had taken steps to restore original details and make thoughtful updates, handing over a turnkey space. "It's an old house that needs care," Juliana says. "But for the most part, our motto has just been 'Don't f\*\*\* this up.'"

Without the burden of major renovations, the couple was free to dive right into the fun part of designing any new home—decor and art. The visual language of the interiors centers around organic shapes in neutral hues punctuated by bright pops of color and unexpected details. "I have a child-like obsession with bold, blocky primary colors, like in Eric Carle's picture books," Brian says. "We have a shared sense of humor with an affinity for weird, funny art that's not too precious," Juliana adds. That taste is perhaps epitomized by the oversized red ampersand sculpture situated in the corner of the dining room which has followed the couple throughout several Brooklyn apartments before making the cross-country trek to California. "Now that we're not living in a tiny apartment, the thing that keeps coming up for both of us is an ongoing commitment to not cluttering or overcrowding the space," she says. "Especially when 20% of our communication is just sending each other links to cool light fixtures or chairs," she laughs.





“We have a relentless curiosity when we’re traveling,” Juliana says. “I once tracked down a wool blanket from a riad we stayed at in Morocco and ran across the city to find the artisan. In Buenos Aires, we did a tour with a woman who crafts custom experiences around your specific cultural and design interests. She took us to Ries Studio in a neighborhood we absolutely would not have known about otherwise and found several amazing pieces.” Photo Credit: Seth Caplan



Brian built the dining room’s floating credenza using Basis by Reform cabinetry. Above the built-in sits a painting by Ryan Robichaux, whose work explores concepts of masculinity in the American West. Photo Credit: Seth Caplan



The Arc dining table is from Sun at Six, which is surrounded by Wishbone chairs from Rove Concepts. The ampersand sculpture was thrifted from Brooklyn Flea, and the handwoven palm sculpture is by Rres studio. The drawing is by Kevin Bermudez from Tierra Del Sol Gallery. Photo Credit: Seth Caplan

Familial touches, unique travel discoveries, and pieces imbued with emotional history all add quiet depth and rich texture to the home. Juliana’s brother-in-law, Benner Boswell, built a custom daybed for the sun room and drove it down from San Francisco. “[Benner] making the daybed for us was one of the kindest, most loving gestures I’ve ever experienced,” she says. Meanwhile, vintage art from extended family overseas fills the fireplace mantle with warm memories, in addition to colorful vases found in an offbeat ceramics studio on an Italian trip. “The number of times we’ve purchased a cheap duffle bag on a vacation because we’ve gotten overly enthusiastic with [design souvenirs] is embarrassingly high,” Juliana says with a laugh. In another magical moment, after following design studio Estudio Persona for years, the duo was able to acquire their dream coffee table—otherwise out of reach—as it was slightly flawed and heavily discounted. Now, it’s the perfect centerpiece for the living room.





With no kitchen renovations needed, the couple opted to bring in personality through small accessories like a Destroyer LA fruit basket, Mosser Glass jade bowls, and The Long Confidence tumblers. Photo Credit: Seth Caplan

“We’ve been married for four years, and we’ve been together for 13,” Brian says. “We’ve had four different places together, but this is the first we’ve owned. I feel lucky that we’ve naturally merged our styles over time.” As the couple prepares to welcome their first child this summer, they’ll do so in a home that exemplifies their shared interests and fitting love language for the creatively informed.



Irreverent touches like a poster print by Richard Anuszkiewicz (purchased on Artsy), a custom dog lamp by Zozo’s General, and a Nelson Bubble pendant bring personality to the otherwise subdued primary bedroom. Photo Credit: Seth Caplan