

# california

HOME+DESIGN

# 2007

CH+D AWARDS

A vignette by  
San Francisco's  
Jay Jeffers, winner  
of the Residential  
Interior Design  
(under 2,000 sq. ft.)  
Award, p. 94





## CH+D AWARD FOR RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR DESIGN (UNDER 3,000 SQ. FT.)

JAY JEFFERS  
JEFFERS DESIGN GROUP, SAN FRANCISCO



When we first met, I was dressed up as a fictional rapper named T-Bone," says designer Jay Jeffers about the Halloween party where he was introduced to his clients, professional skateboarder Reese Forbes and his wife, Shawn. "We were all very serious about our costumes that night, and we just bit it off immediately." A few weeks later, the three got together for a dinner party (out of costume) at Jeffers' San Francisco home, where the seeds of a great collaboration were planted.

"We have a very similar aesthetic when it comes to mixing patterns and colors," says Jeffers, who learned that evening about the Forbes' recent purchase of a midcentury ranch house in Sherman Oaks. Built in 1964, the 2,900-square-foot house had been updated in the '80s with traditional columns and moldings. Despite the incongruous mix, the couple loved the house for both its kitschy charm (a wood-paneled guest room) and its new elements (an open fireplace clad





In this room, the white Eames-style chairs and the light-colored sofa are the focal points. The room is bright and airy, with a view of trees outside. The large, dark, textured coffee table is a unique piece of furniture.

In one corner of the living room, a mint example of a 1960 Aldo Tassi lacquered-parchment bar cart is outfitted for old school cocktails. The Curtis Jere brass bird sculpture above the bar is circa 1970.



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in travertine). "They wanted to keep all the details but play against them," says Jeffers. "So the house would be a real mix—not all midcentury."

In the end, the team's collective aesthetic came together in an explosion of periods, colors and patterns for an overall effect that is both high style and highly irreverent. A case in point is the dining room, which combines a reproduction 19th-century Chinese Chippendale table, 1950s latticework chairs with seats upholstered in vibrant tangerine and a rosewood chandelier from the '50s. The focal point of the room is Shawn's grandmother's buffet, updated with a high-gloss coat of royal blue paint.

Not surprisingly, both the Forbuses and their designer are known for their eclectic personal styles. Brese designs graphic clothing for Quiksilver, and his skateboard shoe for Nike sells for upwards of \$500 as a vintage collectible. Shawn, a fashion director for Macy's West, exudes a certain Old Hollywood glamour. Jeffers' signature look is an intriguing mix of details—some classic, some

ABOVE: The inspiration for the orange and blue palette started with the Lulu DK fabric on the chair. RIGHT: The dining room feels like a sampler box of period styles.





edge—usually set against a fearlessly patterned background.

"Both Reese and Shawn love fashion and entertaining," says Jeffers. "Reese will put on his shorts and go outside to skate, but he also loves to get dressed up and have people over for cocktails. They wanted a home where they could entertain, but they also needed it to be comfortable and fun—as well as energetic and sexy."

The living room, which is meant for hanging out and watching movies as well as hosting more formal gatherings, offers a diverse range of seating, from a modern beige sofa to white rope chairs picked up at the Rose Bowl flea market to blue and orange floor cushions with contrast piping. An abstract floral fabric from Lulu DK called Bloomsbury has a small but starring role, covering portions of a shapely club chair by Troscan Design, and was the inspiration for the rest of the decor. "We loved that graphic pattern, and we knew we wanted blue and orange tones," says Jeffers. "So we started there, and then worked our way around the house."

ABOVE: Prints reign in the entry lounge where a Clarence House wallpaper looks coast. LEFT: Jeffers turned a wood-paneled bedroom into an office dubbed the "man room."



Jeffers and Shawn scoured flea markets and vintage shops in L.A. and San Francisco to find midcentury modern pieces, such as the '30s brass-and-parchment Aldo Tura bar that anchors one corner of the living room and the brass sculpture that hangs over it. Vintage paintings from Lost Art Salons in San Francisco's Mission District and Dragonette Ltd. on L.A.'s La Cienega Boulevard adorn the walls throughout the house. "The contrast of the vintage detailing with the super-clean lines of the more contemporary furniture really brings the pieces into today," says Jeffers.

The unlikely combination of eras and styles also works to make each iconic period piece look instantly new and fresh. In the large foyer—which has been transformed into a lounge—two cane-framed tufted armchairs from the '30s complement a less-precious pair of '70s rattan chairs that were picked up at a flea market and outfitted with new pink-and-white-patterned cushions. Unbelievably, these two disparate pairs look right at home when displayed against a wallpaper from Clarence House, which features a large-scale Asian urn motif in chocolate and white. "This room gets lots of light—if it were any darker, I would have thought twice about that wallpaper," says

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