

# HOMIE

## HOW THE SHOPKEEPERS LIVE

A scene from Anna and Dan Kahoe's carriage house. Turn the page for more.



Photographs by LAUREN BULBIN



# AT HOME WITH THE TRENDSETTERS

Their decor businesses help the rest of us amp up our style—now take a look at how these local shopkeepers live in their own spaces

By Jennifer Barger



## ANNA AND DAN KAHOE

**YOU KNOW THEM FROM:**  
GoodWood. The couple's U Street vintage-furnishings and women's-clothing boutique has been in business since 1994.

**IN 20-PLUS YEARS OF MARRIAGE, ANNA AND DAN KAHOE** have rehabbed (and lived in) an Adams Morgan row-house, an American foursquare in Mount Pleasant, and an 1890s industrial laundry in Logan Circle. When they happened upon their current digs—a two-story 1887 carriage house in Blagden Alley—the building, like all the others, needed a fair amount of work. “It was on a swampy lot thick with weeds,” says Anna. “We toured it, and it was like a European wine cave crossed with *The Silence of the Lambs*.” Still, they saw the potential to turn the place—then a dusty workshop with an upstairs apartment—into a moody, romantic home.

The Kahoes bought it in 2010, living amid the construction while architect Shawn Buehler transformed it into a house suitable for both private life and the couple's frequent parties. The first level now functions as an open kitchen and dining/living space; a bedroom suite occupies the second floor. The whole place keeps with the same retro, bohemian vibe you'll find at GoodWood. “By using salvaged six-panel doors, antique light fixtures, and vintage bathroom sinks, we made everything look old,” says Dan.

In the kitchen, an 11½-foot custom chestnut dining table seats up to 14, while a leather banquette is ideal for smaller gatherings, such as one of Anna's book clubs. Walls are exposed brick or covered in Farrow & Ball “Wisteria” paper—a deep gray, green, and gold—all set off by an ever-changing collection of vintage paintings and sketches. “We love boxing scenes, naked ladies, and fish,” says Anna. “Kind of a Hemingway thing.”

Upstairs, crisp white walls, tall windows, and a wooden floor painted with a blue-and-white herringbone pattern create a sunnier mood. Suspended from the ceiling, a floral Turkish textile and an oversize oil painting screen off the sleeping nook with its red four-poster bed. But the Kahoes spend most of their time in the adjacent living area, where a wall of black built-in bookcases—filled with design titles, novels, and such curiosities as a carved wooden skull—faces two weathered Scandinavian leather sofas. After long days at GoodWood or buying antiques at auctions, the couple relaxes by watching documentaries or snuggling with cats Electra and Paco. Says Anna: “We wanted it to feel like a bright hotel suite with a gypsy and circus spirit.”

**On the Kahoes' lower level, exposed brick paired with walls covered in Farrow & Ball “Wisteria” paper creates a moody backdrop for the couple's art collection. Upstairs, floors painted in blue-and-white chevron, opposite, lighten things up.**





**PIXIE WINDSOR**

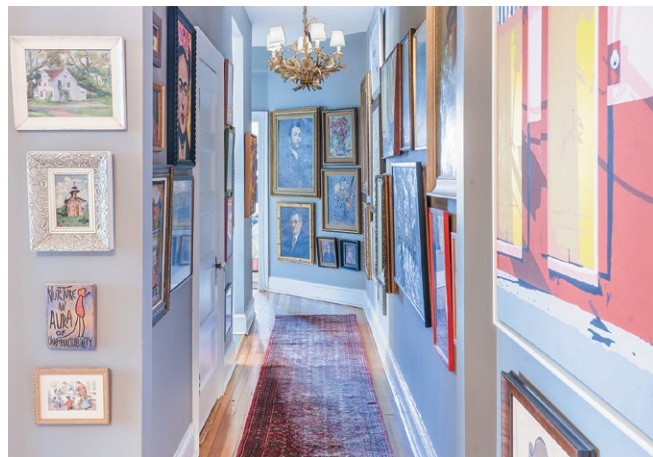
**YOU KNOW HER FROM:**

Miss Pixie's. Windsor's funky vintage-furnishings store has been in business for 22 years and on 14th Street since 2008.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO THINK ABOUT MISS PIXIE'S WITHOUT THOSE pink pens by the cash register—the ones that seem to have landed in every kitchen junk drawer in the city—coming to mind. So it's no wonder the hue fills Pixie Windsor's grand 1908 co-op in Adams Morgan. "It's my favorite color, my signature," she says. It covers the midcentury swivel chairs in her dining room and the walls in her bedroom.

"I have lots of tchotchkes, but I keep them organized," says Windsor. This means kitchen shelves with groupings of pastel 1950s plates and retro toy cars, plus walls filled with vintage and local art, including a collection of nudes in the master bedroom. The furniture, scored at the same auctions Windsor frequents to stock her shop, comes from multiple eras, too. A white '70s dining set sits under an elaborate crystal chandelier; a mod fuchsia chair faces a 19th-century chinoiserie cabinet hiding a TV. "I love midcentury modern, but I blend it with really old things," she says. "I mix things by instinct and switch things out a lot. That might be the 20th dining table I've had in here."

Windsor bought the spacious flat in 2008, putting in a new kitchen with black composite countertops and an island repurposed from an old wooden store cabinet. But some of the most interesting elements came with the place, such as a five-foot-long cast-iron farm sink and Grecian columns in the living room. Windsor slides open the original pocket doors to connect the living and dining rooms during parties, including holiday bashes featuring one big tree and up to 50 tabletop versions, all trimmed with vintage ornaments. "I also decorate the heck out of that chandelier," says Windsor. "Everything is pink, white, or silver. I'm against Christmas being red and green."



Windsor calls pink her "signature"—which won't surprise fans of her store.





McClements says she's "into a West Coast 1970s vibe." The black-walnut dining table, lower left, was made by her carpenter father.



## AMANDA McCLEMENTS

### YOU KNOW HER FROM:

Salt & Sundry and Little Leaf. McClements was one of the first shopkeepers to move into Union Market when it debuted in 2012. She also recently opened an event space, the Sun Room, in Eckington.

**SITTING IN HER LIVING ROOM, AMANDA McCLEMENTS** is surrounded by a delightful mix of decor: a high-backed rattan peacock chair, a love seat draped with a blue-and-white shibori-dyed throw, plants everywhere. "I'm constantly having a design identity crisis," she says. "I'm into a West Coast 1970s vibe, but I also love an antique New Orleans mansion dripping with velvet."

Her red-brick 1885 rowhouse near 14th Street, however, definitely doesn't look like it's in crisis. It's true that it contains a mash-up of styles, but McClements pulls off the eclectic look at home in the same sophisticated way she does at her Salt & Sundry stores in Union Market and Logan Circle. On the open first floor, Cisco Brothers sofas in neutral fabric get heaped with exotic textiles such as vintage kilim pillows and a rainbow-stripe Bolivian *frazada* blanket. The adjacent dining area is anchored by a black-walnut farm table made by McClements's North Carolina carpenter father; on the wall, a vintage rattan folding screen serves as art. Houseplants in handmade ceramic pots on the kitchen window sill could be a display from her indoor-gardening shop, Little Leaf.

"When I bought the house, I loved that it was wide open and airy, which felt modern," says McClements. "But I also think that if you have a property of a certain age, you should pay homage to the past." With that in mind, she has incorporated a number of period pieces, including a *Mad Men*-era drum table and old paintings of what she calls her faux "vintage relatives" leaning against the foyer's wall. "I like a lot of different stuff," says McClements. "That's why I opened a store."

Though it's new, the mirrored buffet McClements uses as a bar has a vintage look. Behind it, navy "Starburst" wallpaper from West Elm creates a fun accent.



## KATE ZAREMBA

### YOU KNOW HER FROM:

The Lemon Collective. Zaremba is co-owner of the craft and event space in Petworth. She sells her wallpaper line, Kate Zaremba Company, online.

**AT FIRST GLANCE, THE BLACK-AND-WHITE WALLPAPER IN** the bathroom of Kate Zaremba’s Adams Morgan apartment appears to be an abstract swirl—maybe vines or raindrops? But look closely and you’ll spot female nudes, a whimsical contrast with the vintage green tiles below. Those voluptuous figures make up one of dozens of punchy prints dreamed up by Zaremba, several of which are showcased in the light-filled two-bedroom she shares with her husband, Jeremy Ney, and their baby daughter.

“Creating wallpaper is like piecing together a collage,” says Zaremba. “You find elements and puzzle them into an interior accessory. It’s like new earrings but for a room.” In addition to the cheeky print in the loo, the couple’s walkup rental includes an accent wall in the living/dining room covered in the fruit-forward “Banana Nicole Smith” and hallways plastered in the oversize “Pinstripe Floral.” Their daughter’s snug nursery is decked with “Muse,” a multicolor paper inspired by Matisse cutouts.

Art fills the apartment, too: a midcentury still-life painting—an \$11 thrift-store find—above the sofa, a macramé hanging by Lemon Collective co-owner Linny Giffin in the nursery, and an abstract rug by Julia Mior on the couple’s bedroom wall. Thanks to relatively simple furniture, things don’t look too busy. “We’re careful to balance the textures and colors,” says Zaremba.

Special pieces that made the cut include a shabby-chic white-and-yellow side chair that belonged to Zaremba’s grandmother as well as Ney’s piano—he’s music director at the Phillips Collection. “Jeremy is as into art as I am, so he’s open to this apartment being my lab,” says Zaremba. “It’s always changing. Come back in a few weeks and you’ll see a totally different place.”



Zaremba’s wallpapers cover her apartment. She chose “Muse” for her daughter’s nursery, below.





## NICOLE CROWDER

### YOU KNOW HER FROM:

Her studio at Brookland's Monroe Street Market Arts Walk and pop-up shops. Her business, Nicole Crowder Upholstery, revives vintage furniture.

**THE CORAL ACCENT WALL BEHIND THE SOFA AT NICOLE** Crowder's Van Ness apartment looks like something you'd see in a Moroccan casbah. "I think of it as coral meets terra cotta," says the photo editor turned upholsterer. "I want my home to feel as much like a vacation as possible." The bold color is backdrop to an even bolder roll-arm sofa covered in navy vinyl, several blue-and-white prints, and orange piping—a prime example of the creative, couture-like upholstery Crowder specializes in. "I wanted my couch to be as maximalist as possible, something that really tested my skills," she says.

Crowder has been thrifting, dumpster-diving, and Craigslisting for chairs and sofas since 2013, teaching herself how to recover them via YouTube videos and selling them online, plus these days at her new Brookland studio. She sources textiles online, from G Street Fabrics & Home Decorating Center, and from her clients, reimagining Grandma's wing chairs and settees in combinations such as pink velvet trimmed with silk flowers.

Her 700-square-foot rental, where Crowder has lived for three years, reflects the same bright, patched-together vibe as her work. In the compact dining area, citrus-hued walls are decked with African baskets, a swath of fabric from Turkey, and a photo of Jack White in a fedora. The card table is always piled with fabric samples and art books, and it's often surrounded by chairs in various states of dress or undress. The adjacent living space, with its stellar view of the Washington Monument, "is a place to play and chill," says Crowder. "All this color makes me feel energized."

Crowder designed her couch, right, to be "as maximalist as possible," with vinyl, multiple prints, piping, and nailhead trim.

