LAPPING IT UP

A FAMILY FROM ARGENTINA
SOAKS IN THE GOOD LIFE
AT A PLAYFUL VACATION HOME.

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A FAMILIAR PATTERN

Are you a pattern, color, or texture person? Maybe all of the above? One more to think about: Does your home aesthetic mirror your wardrobe?

In light of recently wallpapering our living area with bold botanicals — then realizing I have similar prints and colors in my closet — I asked the homeowners in this issue if they’ve noticed a similar pattern, so to speak. Do they dress themselves the same way they dress their homes?

I knew architect Jill Lewis was a pattern girl from her high-energy tile choices (p. 30). I pictured artist Lynda Keeler and partner Bob Merlis being all about texture based on their ridiculously beautiful triple-sided rock fireplace (p. 38), and I envisioned gallery owner Jorge Mendez to be absorbed by the power of color — his art collection oozes it (p. 54). Here’s what they said.

Lewis: “You’re so correct, in my case. Like my design work, my wardrobe is 90 percent black, white, and navy, and 10 percent vibrant patterns. I have just pops of color and pieces of super-graphic acrylic jewelry by Finn, a Buenos Aires designer. My favorite striped dress looks like my house!”

Keeler: “Our house was composed to emphasize the natural beauty of the mountains, sky, and gardens outside our door and to play upon the warm tones of its stone and tile work. Color is minimized, and texture is highlighted. I do tend to wear muted colors, with maybe a small pop of color. However, Bob is known for his vibrant blazers, both vintage and contemporary. Some of the colorways in my paintings take a cue from his wardrobe. In Palm Springs, I let him be the peacock.”

Mendez: “I connect with color, texture, and pattern. The successful interplay between bright and vivid colors, rich textures, and defined patterns creates depth and complexity. Curating art in my gallery and the clothes in my closet is guided by the same aesthetic sense.”

I tested my theory on our fashion editor, Susan Stein. “I’ve worked with many interior designers who cannot dress themselves,” she says, “yet I have known many fashionistas whose home-décor style is as flamboyant as they are. Iris Apfel and Diana Vreeland come to mind.”

Does Stein’s home mirror her impeccable fashion sense? “Our home is white and pale gray with hints of lime green and silver. It’s very soothing. I now let the color come out in my wardrobe and accessories. So, no, my closet does not mirror my home but rather mirrors my insane lifestyle. My home is my retreat from the chaos of my life.”

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