

artful living

A reimagined condo reflects the owners' passions—and collections

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHIPPER HATTER
AND PREVIEW FIRST



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Carla and Lou Goldberg left behind the artistic haven of New York to be closer to their children and grandchildren, but they brought their East Coast aesthetic—and impressive art collection—with them.

After years of working as a volunteer at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, Carla developed quite the eye for choosing and situating art, so she worked closely with Alison Green, a senior interior designer with Jackson Design and Remodeling, to create a space that is equal parts comfortable home and art showcase.

The condo the Goldbergs purchased had the high walls that Carla wanted (read: lots of space to display pieces) and the view of Carlsbad that Lou loved, but there were a few needs that it lacked—like more separation between the living room and loft space and a kitchen that felt less claustrophobic.

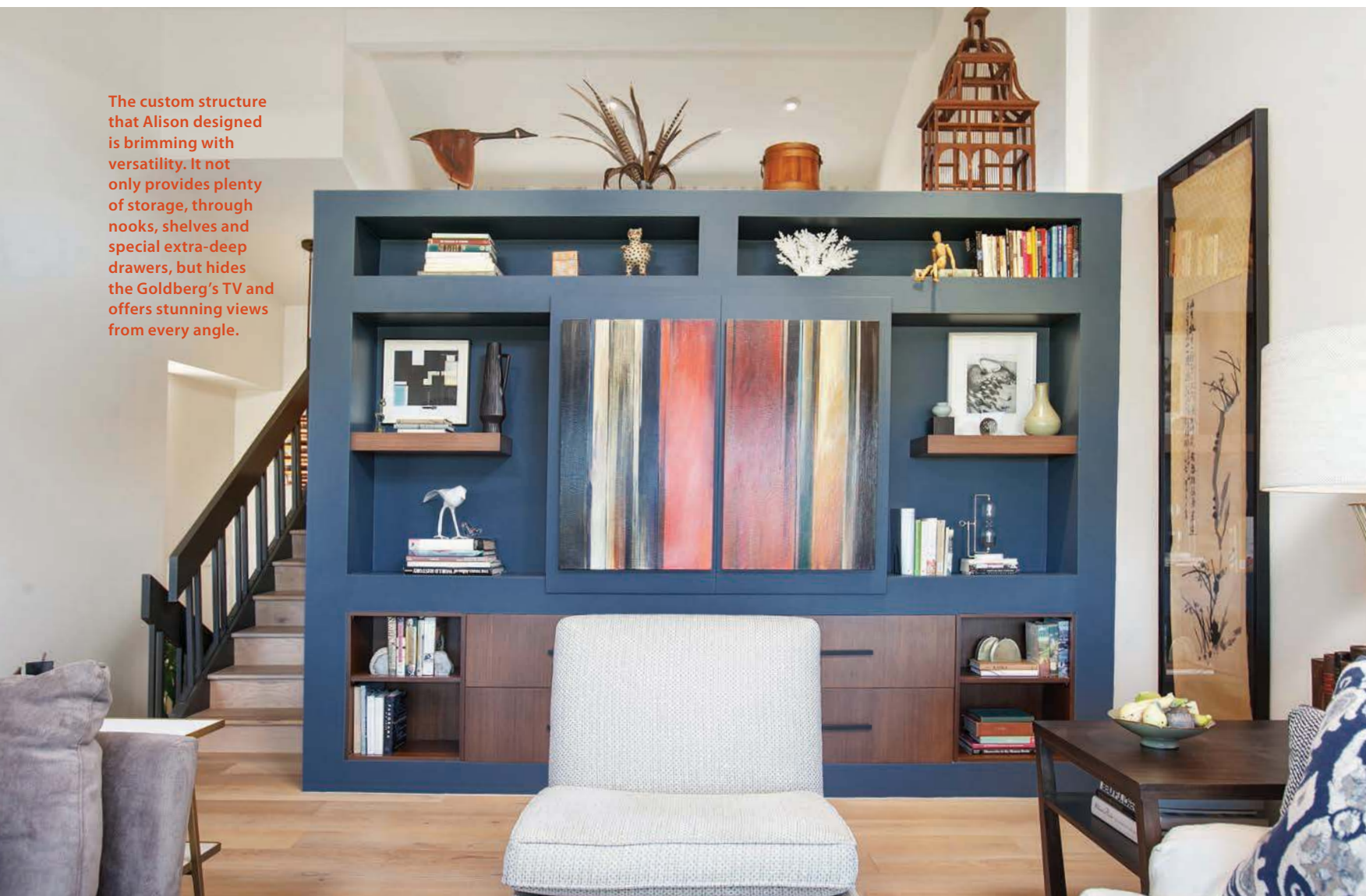
First, Alison designed a custom-built wall furniture piece (the height of which was a bit of a trial-and-error process) that functions as the entertainment console, display center and as storage in the living room; hides the loft from view when you're downstairs; but doesn't block air flow or light in either the living space or the loft.

Carla's friend, Susan Copley, painted a diptych, which hangs from the custom wall on specially engineered sliding panels to hide the living room's TV.

Right: The artwork above the living room sofa, where homeowners Carla and Lou Goldberg sit, is a print of the silkscreen piece *Blue* by famed painter Pat Steir. To the left of the sofa is a traditional Japanese sumi-e painting that was painted for Carla by a Korean man trained in the art form.



The custom structure that Alison designed is brimming with versatility. It not only provides plenty of storage, through nooks, shelves and special extra-deep drawers, but hides the Goldberg's TV and offers stunning views from every angle.



Art Tip

"Basing your color palette off a single artwork can create a wonderful coherence throughout your spaces. However, don't be matchy-matchy. Use shades that are slightly off from the original so as not to disrespect the artwork and create an unengaging space," Carla says.



"I knew that I wanted Susan's piece there," Carla says. "We built the structure with it in mind."

The painting inspired the wall's color—a striking dark blue—and the vivid oranges and reds that pepper spaces throughout the house.

Due to structural limitations, the wall between the kitchen and living area couldn't be removed, but Alison created a large pass-through window that wouldn't leave Carla isolated in the kitchen while cooking.

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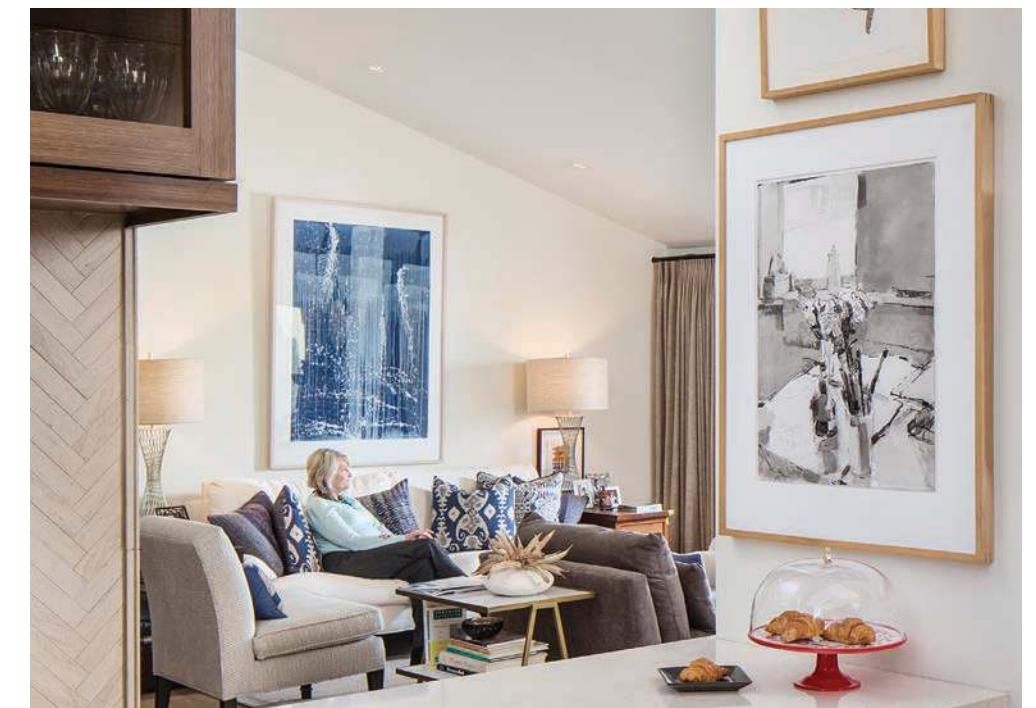
"I was nervous about how it might look," Carla says. "But I'm so glad that Alison really pushed for it. I love to cook so I'm always in the kitchen and now I can watch TV (it's on a pivot) or talk to guests sitting in the living room."

The designer also removed the wet bar that capped the end of the kitchen, which opened it to the dining area and balcony beyond it.

"Removing the wet bar and adding the pass-through were essential to fully utilizing the space," Alison explains. "Now the kitchen is open to the natural lighting provided by the balcony doors and the flow is far more efficient. We also raised the height of the ceiling in the entryway to add illumination and a sense of airiness."

In the kitchen, Alison added resilient porcelain flooring that mimics the look of the hardwood, installed a stone herringbone backsplash and replaced small, awkwardly placed cabinets with durable, stained bamboo cabinetry that has loads of storage.

PREVIEW FIRST (TOP); CHIPPER HATTER (BOTTOM)



Above: Carla notes that many people tend to hang artwork a little too high and says that it is best to start at the gallery standard of 60 inches above the floor and manipulate it from there.

Top: The light wood chest at the foot of the stairs leading up to the home's main level is a Chinese antique that Carla's grandparents got while living in Panama.



PREVIEW FIRST (THIS PAGE); CHIPPER HATTER (FACING PAGE)

The adjacent dining space houses one of the few furnishings the Goldbergs kept after downsizing—an antique Irish hunt table. Carla hung a favorite abstract painting above it and placed a steel sculpture of cattails next to it.

In the living room, two pieces that have had prominent places in all of the Goldberg's homes found their perfect spot here—a framed scroll and a chest that serves as a side table next to the sofa. Both came from Korea, which is where Carla and Lou met and were married.

The home's entry level also pays homage to the Goldberg's time abroad. The closet doors were replaced with Asian-inspired sliding panels and the powder-room design drew inspiration from an oriental light fixture that Carla and Lou already owned.

It includes similar fixtures in gleaming brass and wallpaper that has the look of rice paper.

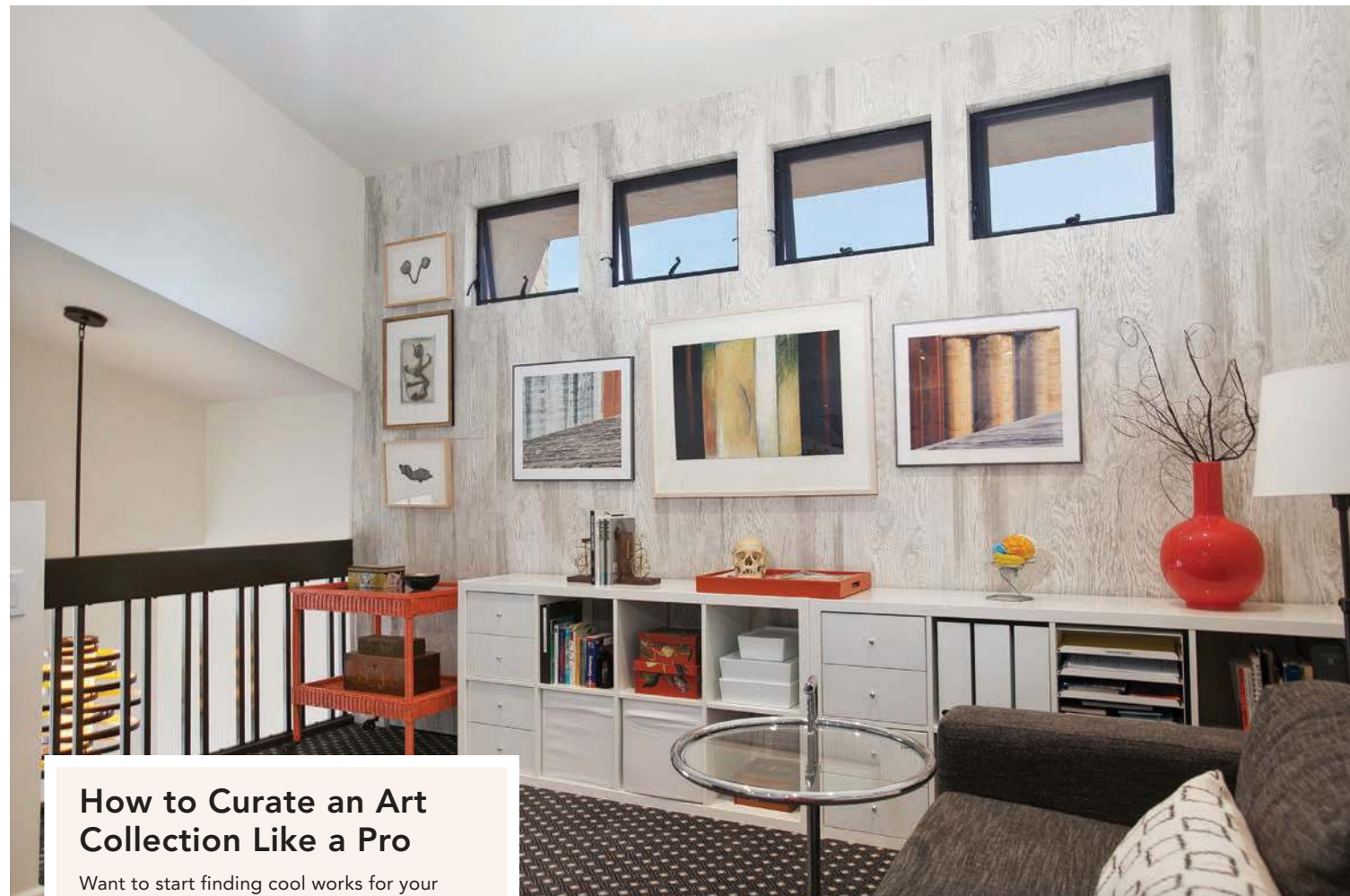
The loft is a study in black and white with pops of orangey-red. A hidden door at the top of the steps opens with a push magnet and allows for concealed storage in the compact space. Carla chose the textured wallpaper that looks and feels like tree bark, adding a sense of the organic to offset the industrial photographs of grain silos hanging on the wall.

A trio of sketches march vertically down the wall alongside the photographs.

"I arrange things based on the idea that they form together," Carla explains. "Each piece will continue a shape that I see starting in another or a color that is touched on in one and reinforced in another."

Above: Carla has lived in both Japan and Korea—where her father was stationed as a diplomat and where she met Lou—and the downstairs powder room showcases the influence that living abroad has had on her life and style.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: The steel cat-tails near the dining room table were previously a set of individual strands that decorated the Goldberg's yard in New York. Carla loved them so much that she collaborated with a steel artisan to fashion a base to make them into a single unit that would fit in their new home. • The vibrant orange clock gracing the shelving near the entrance to the kitchen is a unique find from the gift shop at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. • The kitchen sink was moved during the remodel so that Carla can simultaneously wash dishes and enjoy access to the TV via the pass-through window.



How to Curate an Art Collection Like a Pro

Want to start finding cool works for your home? Carla shares her tips to help you discover what you like and where to get it.

VISIT SMALL GALLERIES and large museums to really get a feel for the different kinds of art out there and to start honing a style that you like. Experience artwork that truly moves you and then go out and find similar pieces.

GO TO STUDENT ART SHOWS at local universities, which is an excellent way to meet emerging artists and to begin collecting great pieces for reasonable prices.

YOU CAN FIND fabulous things in museum gift shops. Carla loves visiting The Oceanside Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego in La Jolla and thinks that both shops are treasure troves of potential finds.

THE DOVE LIBRARY in Carlsbad hosts small but impressive art shows. Carla says that intimate venues like this can be hit or miss but are often worth a visit.

OF COURSE, MUSEUMS in Balboa Park and Los Angeles are always wonderful to go to for inspirational exploration.



Above: "Having a solid wall around the loft [it was previously railing] gives it a much greater sense of privacy and seclusion," says interior designer Alison Green. "The space has been completely transformed from dour to cozy."

Top: The skull and model brain that preside over the loft are remnants from Lou's career in neuroscience. The retired scientist now is using the tranquility of the loft to fully devote himself to his long-held aspiration of writing a novel.

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Similarly, Carla is very particular about the placement of all the art in their home.

A curator once told her, "When [you] walk into a gallery, treat it like a cocktail party. First, take in the lay of the land and survey the space. Who is here? Who is talking to whom?"

In other words, art communicates differently based on its location in the room—and what else it might be mingling with. Each work has a story, personality and history that you have to consider.

"I had an idea of where I was going to put specific pieces before we moved in," Carla shares. "Some worked perfectly and others ended up in completely different places. A lot of placing artwork is just living with it and eyeing it. Even when we hung shows for the museum, we would put up the pieces just to map it out and then move them around until it was perfect. You play with it. It's an arrangement. The nature of art is to push the envelope." ♦



Clockwise from left: "My artworks are like my grandchildren," Carla says with amusement about the placement of art around the condo. "They all need their own space and attention." • The entry hall pendant seems to reflect the spiraling artwork below it. "This leads to a great symbiosis between the furnishings and pieces of art that I choose," Carla explains. • A hidden space in the loft blends seamlessly with the wall, creates a much needed storage space and delights the Goldberg's grandchildren.