

INTERIOR DESIGN GHISLAINE VIÑAS

TEXT SALLIE BRADY

PHOTOGRAPHY HALLIE BURTON



Animal motifs bring a rehabbed lighting factory in Dutchess County new life as a family retreat

# creature COMFORTS



## color my world

Opposite: Designer Ghislaine Viñas used saturated teal and yellow in the guesthouse, where a wall of tongue-in-cheek trophy heads overlooks a CB2 console and a sofa covered in Paul Smith stripes. This page: In the main house, gray was the neutral. Here in the living room, it's the backdrop for the Polder sofa from Vitra. Vitsoe shelving from Moss.



**"CHEERFUL. EASY. NOT TOO COMPLICATED. NO STRESS.":** THESE WERE THE DIRECTIVES given to designer Ghislaine Viñas by a Manhattan couple ready to decorate a weekend home away from home. Viñas knew her clients shared her penchant for color and whimsy when they approached her after seeing one of her "happy" projects on a Tribeca loft tour. She had already begun working with them on a Manhattan residence when they asked her to take on their weekend place, too, a former lighting factory in Clinton Corners, in New York's Dutchess County. The Hudson River Valley property had been converted from a commercial space to a residential one by a previous owner, but the cold rooms needed warming—and a dash of personality.

The one-story main house and the guesthouse each had living and dining areas and multiple bedrooms. Viñas started by hanging gray linen curtains throughout both houses, which provided a soft, neutral backdrop. Working in early winter, the New York designer says, drew her to saturated color.

CONTINUED

**modern mix**

Opposite: Another view of the living/dining area in the guesthouse. Mushroom stools from Modern 50. Paola Lenti rug from Karkula. Stainless dining table, A Plus restaurant supply. This page: In the kitchen/dining areas in the main house, Viñas had gray panels sewn together for curtains and added hot pink cushions to Saarinen chairs.



For the dining room, Viñas had a large oak table made in Pennsylvania and paired it with Saarinen Tulip chairs. The kitchen's industrial look continues with a stainless console, topped with a vintage microscope. Viñas made the chandelier of bulbs and sockets from Home Depot.

wild and  
wonderful

The old lighting factory was made up of three buildings that were transformed into the main house, the guesthouse, with this structure, in between, now a walled garden. The plantings are new, cultivated to look mature.



a new perspective

Above: The stone walkway descends from the main house down to the guesthouse. Right: Playfulness continues in the master bedroom, where the client's own fawn pillow is at home against an asymmetrical headboard of fabrics from Maharam. Lightbulb fixture from DWR. Below: White-tiled simplicity in the master bath.





Bold color appears throughout the spaces, on walls, signature pieces of modern furniture, and as accents. Two themes unify the houses—that of the building’s light-factory past, which Viñas alludes to with exposed-bulb light fixtures; and the country locale. The latter, Viñas has fun with, parodying taxidermied hunting trophy heads with a wall of colorful deer made of cashmere and paper, and an entire bedroom devoted to gnomes. “I am from Holland and gnomes are an important part of the folklore of Northern Europe,” says Viñas with a laugh. “My clients get the gnome thing.” The designer says her style sees her doing a lot of weekend homes: “The great thing about doing second homes is that clients don’t obsess over them,” says Viñas. “They always end up being looser and much more fun.” — See Resources.



**big smiles**

Opposite: Viñas and the homeowners agreed the bedrooms should be a place where they could play out their shared spirit of whimsy. Gnomes inspired the theme for the “picnic” bedroom in the guesthouse. Curtains and bedside lights, which Viñas filled with plastic ants, from Ikea. Log pillows from Etsy. This page, above: Two views of a guest bedroom, with a Ligne Roset bed and bedside tables Viñas made of old metal laundry baskets and lucite tops. The lightbulb theme continues when hung as a night light. Left: The children’s bedroom in the guesthouse is turned over to Paul Frank’s monkeys for bedding and pillows. A gray wall was added, along with a graphic gray-and-white curtain element from Ikea. Bulb fixture also Ikea. Rug, Aronson’s Floorcovering. Bunkbeds from Dueduc.