

For the living room sofa accent pillows, Florence mixed two cashmere pillows from Jessie Black in San Francisco with a kidney pillow bought in Paris. The room showcases David's abstracted fine art photos. **OPPOSITE** The Livingston family in their garden. Florence observes, "David treats the garden as his own little park, trimming the trees annually, and embracing change."



A MILL VALLEY HOUSE

*GOES FROM BACHELOR PAD
TO FAMILY FRIENDLY*

THE HOME OF PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID
DUNCAN LIVINGSTON AND HIS WIFE,
INTERIOR DESIGNER FLORENCE CHOUX
LIVINGSTON REFLECTS BOTH THEIR TASTES

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DESCRIBING HER AMERICAN HOME IN MILL VALLEY, "I ALWAYS COME BACK TO THE WORDS, SERENE, FAMILY, COLLECTED AND NATURAL," THE INTERIOR DESIGNER SAYS OF THE FORMER BACHELOR PAD.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, interior design and architectural photographer, David Duncan Livingston decided to put down roots. Traveling the world for his work, the San Francisco bay area native purchased a ramshackle 1960's house in Mill Valley sight unseen. Over the years, the bachelor deconstructed the property creating a crisp modern home nestled in a rustic garden of terraced Mediterranean and native plantings.

Just like the house, David's life evolved when he met his wife interior designer Florence Choux Livingston. Growing up on the French tropical island of Réunion, Florence's aesthetic combined Creole style with Parisian flair. After the couple added son Luca and a Portuguese Podengo dog named Nougat, she transformed the home from bachelor pad to family friendly. Through out the welcoming interiors, Florence mixed old, new and found pieces reflecting both her and David's tastes.

ABOVE David has a long association with the furniture company Ironies, photographing both ads and product. For Florence's design office they provided both the custom writing desk and the Bramble Side Table. **OPPOSITE** Located conveniently next to the living room, Luca's colorful playroom attracts not only children but also adults and Nougat the dog.



ABOVE In the master bedroom, the twisted metal base of the Liana Side Table from Ironies complements the texture of the chunky hand knit wool blanket from Jessie Black. A turned wooden Serra Floor Lamp from Ironies adds both illumination and a sculptural quality. **LEFT** A table scape in the master bedroom is an assemblage of different personal objects from both David and Florence's lives.

The neutral hued, open planned living and dining room looks out on the casual garden of tall oak trees, rough stonewalls, and meandering paths. Two of David's abstracted fine art photos surmount a linen covered sofa from J. F. Fitzgerald Co. Tactile accent pillows echo the moody tones of the land and seascapes. A burnished gold twig table interacts with a silver resin coffee table shaped like a giant river stone. To accommodate frequent entertaining, Rossi Antiques fabricated a contemporary expandable dining table, which Florence paired with a set of discontinued dining chairs sourced through Sloan Miyasato.



Florence describes her design style, "I like my interiors to have soft neutrals with a mix of antiques and new furniture, some texture and personal objects and photos that tell a story," she says.



From the living room, an open doorway reveals four-year-old Luca's whimsical playroom. A primitive painting by Hudson Valley artist Earl Swaingan rests against Florence's Matisse inspired chalkboard wall. The juxtaposition of present child with future adult continues in his bedroom. Florence selected a Muffin & Mani wall covering depicting fanciful scenes of Paris for the accent wall. Across the room an upholstered day bed provides Luca with a place to sit and read as well as sleep. David built the adjacent reading shelf from remnants of oak flooring.

In the tranquil master bedroom a walnut Queen Anne Highboy mingles with artisanal furniture from Ironies. Through the French doors the patio and gardens beckon. Nearby Florence's design office showcases a large wooden map of Réunion Island. Describing her American home in Mill Valley, "I always come back to the words, serene, family, collected and natural," the interior designer says of the former bachelor pad. **CH**

Florence designed Luca's daybed and David fabricated the upholstery out of non-toxic batting. The photographer also made the wall mounted ceramic monkey face to celebrate his son's birth. **OPPOSITE** Against the playful Parisian wallpaper, Florence placed a practical elm edge table with metal legs. "I wanted to create a bedroom Luca could grow into but that would still be fun and colorful" she said.

