

**T**ownsizing to a three-level 2,000-square-foot cottage in Santa Monica, California, gave Mary and Tom Korsan a clean slate for kicky colors and patterns that had been missing from their life. Joining forces with design-pro friend Sasha Emerson, Mary scrapped the bland furnishings she'd had for years in favor of a bolder, more contemporary look that emphasizes feet-up comfort. "Our two older boys moved out so we didn't need bedrooms for them anymore," Mary says. Taking care not to clutter the space, the couple—owners of Great Guns USA, a film production company—chose fewer pieces that serve multiple functions, and they jazzed up walls with playful art by local emerging talent. "Whatever you put on clean, white walls looks great," Mary says, describing what friends call her and Tom's "brave" approach to decorating. Many items are vintage. Nothing's precious. Not one thing demands to be taken more seriously than a day at the beach. Which is where they often are when not at home—hitting the surf with their youngest, 11-year-old Hank.



### **bold moves**

A fresh coat of Benjamin Moore Decorator's White made the living room feel larger, though its odd shape and multiple doors created a design challenge. Previous owners had solved the problem with a family-friendly sectional sofa, which the Korsans bought from them. To pep up the gray upholstery, they covered rear cushions in a graphic linen and tossed on bold-patterned pillows. Sasha added a Christopher Farr striped rug and soft custom poufs, which multitask as footstools, tables and extra seating. The vintage Eames chair in seafoam leather was a find from a Palm Springs shop.



### **fresh air**

A side patio becomes an alfresco dining spot, complete with sturdy teak furniture, hanging lanterns and fishing floats from a flea market.



### **lofty thoughts**

The built-in sofa—designed by Sasha to resemble old-fashioned window seats—makes the upstairs loft a cozy lounge and place for kids' sleepovers. The seats lift up for storage and cushion covers made from linen and denim remnants zip off for easy cleaning. A beaded Moroccan-style box—a repurposed food crate snagged at a flea market—holds board games.