

# the narrative decorator

One of this year's picks for the *domino* 10 (see page TK), Fawn Galli has a talent for transforming her clients' deepest desires into storyscapes of fabric, furniture and paint. When it came to her Brooklyn brownstone, the interpretive process yielded a magical-realist theme: an enchanted forest with a bit of glam and a clear decorative thread.

photographs by LAURA RESEN produced by DARA CAPONIGRO text by BROOKE WILLIAMS



The red toile wallpaper in the foyer, where Galli stands, is chapter one in the house's bright decor.

**S**ome decorators have a signature style—others, like Galli, have a highly personal and singular approach. She sets out to really understand her clientele by asking about their dreams and favorite memories; her goal is to orchestrate a collaborative, imaginative vision. So when she decided to create a wonderland for her family of three, she looked to the most vivid moments in her own past: her California hippie-commune childhood and her nights as a party girl/decorator-in-waiting in Paris and New York. (She trained under renowned designer Peter Marino and classical architect Robert A.M. Stern.) The result is a vibrant fairy tale, where a life-size fiberglass deer shares the shade of a banana tree with a Chesterfield sofa, and chartreuse curtains spring forth from gleaming silver walls. In an amateur's hands, such whimsical, no-holds-barred pairings might seem melodramatic, but Galli's disciplined eye and inherent feel for color and scale foster a unified structure that keeps the fantasy grounded.

SOFA 90" leather \$3,949 natuzzi.com for stores PILLOW FABRICS Edelman Leather "Night Life Python" in Silver Streak about \$41/square foot, and "Night Life Demi Cow" in Blue Flame about \$33/square foot, and GREEN CHAIR FABRIC Maharam cotton "Aria" in Emerge about \$100/yard, e-mail designpro@ddbldg.com CURTAIN FABRIC Custom silk "Diamond" ikat \$tkk/yard, e-mail ccassidy@laotextiles.com BLACK LOUNGE CHAIR Marcel Wanders "New Antiques" \$2,022 Cappellini (212) 620-7953 DEER Fiberglass \$950 American Foliage & Design Group, Inc. (212) 741-5555 CUCKOO CLOCK Tobias Reischle \$395 momastore.org COWHIDE RUG \$499 ABC Carpet & Home (212) 473-3000 SISAL RUG 8'6" x 19' \$2,186 sisalcarpet.com WALL PAINT Tundra #2133-70, benjaminmoore.com for information





Hung atop patterned wallpaper, a framed Jonathan Ball photo of a shrouded chandelier cleverly adds depth.



Unusual flourishes—like using a vintage Asian print to swathe only the back of a classic armchair—lend surprise.



A Saarinen-style table echoes the curves of the fireplace (and 2½-year-old Gaspar's train set).

## “Every surface is a playground”

Galli sees storytelling opportunities everywhere—when artfully covered, even the tiniest pillow can usher in a sense of history. In the living room, she engendered a sexy disco-esque tableau with silvery Florence Broadhurst wallpaper and a pair of chrome-framed Milo Baughman knockoffs, upholstered in hot-pink custom fabric by Robert Crowder. Confined to only the inside of the moldings, the paper both highlights the room's architectural details and draws reflected light to its darker areas; the geometric play invites extra frisson. An oversize mushroom lamp nods to Galli's countercultural roots.

**CHAIRS** (above) “Milo” \$1,485 each (excluding fabric), Lawson-Fenning (323) 934-0048 **CHAIR FABRIC** Robert Crowder custom #41028 in Beige and Raspberry about \$205/yard, Sloan Miyasato (415) 431-1465 for information **ARTWORK** Jonathan Ball archival ink-jet print “Untitled, Rajasthan 2003,” prices vary, jon-ball.com for information **WALLPAPER** Florence Broadhurst “Yvans Geometric Reversed” about \$338/

roll, and **BLUE CHAIR FABRIC** (similar to shown) Holland & Sherry wool “Militaire” about \$138/yard, e-mail designpro@ddbldg.com **TABLE** (right) 48” marble-top \$650 White Furniture (718) 388-2036 **opposite page: CHANDELIER** Acrylic “Kristall” \$1,950 **CITE** (212) 431-7272 **BOOKCASES** Custom black walnut \$7,400 each, e-mail joel@deanandsilva.com **RUG** 12' x 8'6" sisal \$1,179.70 sisalcarpet.com

## “Balance begets freedom”

Galli proves the fashion-world adage that good bones mean you can wear practically anything with aplomb. In the dining room, a straightforward floor plan—matching armchairs in front of the windows, a round table at center and modular bookcases flanking the fireplace—allows her to let loose with a from-the-ceiling shock of chartreuse draperies. A sisal rug and walnut bookshelves (designed by Galli's architect husband, Julio Salcedo) help bring the room down to earth, and an acrylic chandelier bestows a touch of pixie dust; its soft glow is perfect for intimate dinner parties.



Late '70s vinyl dining chairs inject that Studio 54 look Galli loves (plus, they're virtually childproof without losing their cool).



Gaspar's bedroom is a far-ranging blend of imported textiles and local finds—like the chairs Galli found on the street.



Giant iguanas scaling the simply hung curtains bring a touch of the wild to Galli's bedroom.

**BED** (right) Kenneth Cobonpue steel and buri "Voyage" \$3,535 Twentieth (323) 904-1200 **BOLSTER** (similar to shown) \$230 ABC Carpet & Home (212) 473-3000 **SHEETS** Queen flat and fitted "Pondicherry Sage" \$188 each, johnrobshaw.com **CURTAIN FABRIC** Timorous Beasties cotton "Iguana" \$280/meter, The Future Perfect (718) 599-6278 **PILLOWCASE** (below, front) Cotton "Dashed Stripe Robin" \$36 dwellstudio.com

**opposite page: TABLE** Polypropylene "Mammut" \$34.99, **BOOKCASE** "Expedit" \$79.99 and **BASKETS** Rattan "Branäs" \$12.99 each, all at ikea.com for stores **RUG** 3½" x 5½" cotton "Riva" \$325 Madeline Weinrib Atelier (212) 473-3000 ext. 780 **WALL PAINT** Barely Yellow #2025-70, benjaminmoore.com for stores



Gaspar's custom headboard, modeled after a Moorish archway, is upholstered with a blanket from John Robshaw.



## "Make your rooms feel exotic"

For the bedrooms, Galli took her magical mystery tour on the road, mixing patterned fabric and colorful furniture from distant locales. ("I want my son to know and feel the world, but I'm not interested in just sticking up some giant map," she declares.) Gaspar's room is a kaleidoscopic feast, with lemon-yellow walls and a fuchsia Indian rug. (Galli does not subscribe to the blue-is-for-boys mantra.) A mélange of creatures extends the home's woodland theme: A Technicolor orange fawn replaces the traditional rocking horse; a flock of painted wooden owls embellishes the mantelpiece; animals and birds dance across framed textiles from Ecuador. In the master bedroom, Galli converted what had been tiny windows into doors that lead into the garden; a formerly gloomy cave is now a sunny haven. A spectrum of greens and browns—and a tree-house-y woven bed floating at center—enhance the forest-like atmosphere.