

# AD

## CREATIVE LICENSE

top tastemakers  
at home



the Hamptons retreat of fashion dynamos  
INEZ & VINOODH



# Kitchens + baths

ZEPHYR OKEANITO WALL RANGE HOOD; PRICE UPON REQUEST. ZEPHYRONLINE.COM

COMMUNE DESIGN x EXQUISITE SURFACES ABSTRAKT TILE; \$21 PER SQ. FT. XSURFACES.COM

HOUSES & PARTIES CANDLES DRESSED AS WATERMELONS; FROM \$44. HOUSESANDPARTIES.COM

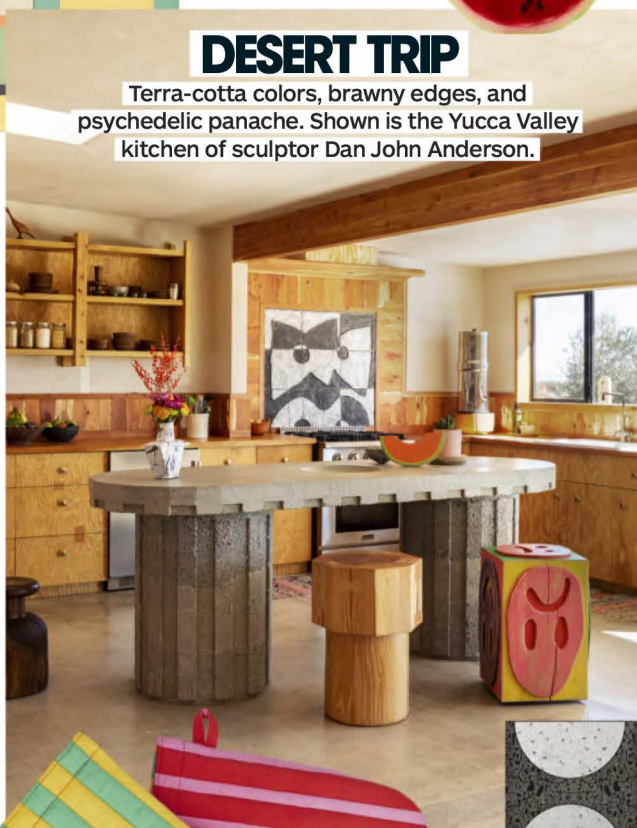
KOHLER CO. PURIST SUSPEND KITCHEN FAUCET; \$2,505. KOHLER.COM



MIELE SILENCE COUNTERTOP COFFEE SYSTEM; \$1,899. MIELEUSA.COM

## DESERT TRIP

Terra-cotta colors, brawny edges, and psychedelic panache. Shown is the Yucca Valley kitchen of sculptor Dan John Anderson.



LG ELECTRONICS MOODUP REFRIGERATOR BY LG STUDIO; \$4,999. LG.COM



BERTAZZONI PROFESSIONAL SERIES INDUCTION RANGE; \$6,099. BERTAZZONI.COM

WALTER FILTER ORANGE WATER FILTER; \$460. WALTERFILTER.COM



BLANCO CATRIS FLEXO FILTER FAUCET; \$580. BLANCO.COM



MOLTENI&C WOODY CHAIR BY FRANCESCO MEDA; \$2,480 FOR A SET OF TWO. SHOP.MOLTENI.IT



DUSEN DUSEN SHORTCAKE STRIPE OVEN MITTS; \$24 EACH. DUSENDUSEN.COM

THERMADOR BUILT-IN COFFEE MACHINE; FROM \$4,049. THERMADOR.COM



JASON WU x BRIZO WALL MOUNT POT FILLER; PRICE UPON REQUEST. BRIZO.COM



MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD x ANN SACKS ABERNATHY MOD MODA TILE; \$35 PER SQ. FT. ANNSACKS.COM

INTERIOR: LAURE JOLIET. ALL PRODUCTS COURTESY OF THE COMPANIES.



# labor

In collaboration with designer *Leyden Lewis*, artist *Malene Barnett* transforms her Brooklyn town house into a deeply personal reflection of her creative ethos

TEXT BY **SYDNEY GORE** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ASHOK SINHA**  
STYLED BY **DORCIA KELLEY**



# of love



THE LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE  
IS CLAD IN CERAMIC TILES  
BY MALENE BARNETT. HANGING  
LIGHT BY INGO MAURER;  
CURVED SOFA BY FRANCE &  
SON; END TABLE FROM FOUR  
HANDS; VINTAGE MOROCCAN  
RUG FROM CARINI NYC.





**LEFT** MALENE BARNETT (WEARING CLOTHING BY EPPERSON STUDIO, JEWELRY BY LORRAINE WEST, AND TRIPPEN SHOES) IN FRONT OF THE FIREPLACE. **OPPOSITE** A POTTERY BARN CIRCULAR WALL MIRROR REFLECTS BARNETT'S HERITAGE WALLPAPER. CUSTOM BENCH DESIGNED BY LEYDEN LEWIS AND FABRICATED BY WESLEY DANIELS; PEDESTAL TABLE FROM FOUR HANDS.

# AS

the founder of the Black Artists + Designers Guild (BADG), Malene Barnett has introduced the design world to a creative practice built around the modern Black experience. There's no stronger case study for this concept than her own Brooklyn home. When the artist and activist says that "there are a lot of moments throughout the space where you see the presence of Black hands, Black life, and Black design," she's not exaggerating.

Having lived in the 2,000-square-foot space since 2009, she was ready for a change. At this chapter in her life, she says, "I needed a space that really reflected where I am as an artist,

as a designer, and as a woman." New furniture and a fresh coat of paint weren't going to be enough; this refresh would be the ultimate labor of Black love, and that required a special eye for curation. This is where Leyden Lewis entered the picture.

Barnett had been waiting for the right moment to collaborate on something personal with the AD100 designer, so when the opportunity to join forces in updating her own home presented itself—which, as she describes it, hit them like a "tsunami"—he was all in. "I want people to understand the importance of working with not just an interior designer, but someone who has vision and understands that decorating space is about so much more than buying furnishings and placing items," she explains. "Leyden is complex in a good way; he was thinking about how I could live in the space without me really thinking about it."









IN THE LIVING ROOM THE CIRCULAR ROOM & BOARD COCKTAIL TABLE ECHOES THE CURVE OF THE FRANCE & SON SOFA. APPARATUS FLOOR LAMP; SIDE TABLES FROM FOUR HANDS; ARTWORK BY NATE LEWIS.

“Pretty much everything in this home has been made, manufactured, produced, and installed by Black hands,” Lewis emphasizes.

When designing products, Barnett often considers how other people will live with them. So the starting point for this personal endeavor was installing wallpapers from her collection for Lulu and Georgia. Lewis points out how it all goes back to this idea of “finding people’s own personal character even within their own bodies of work.” The prime example of this is

the ceramic art installation in Barnett’s living room, something she had been wanting to do for years. Barnett created each tile pattern on the cut grid and made each of them by hand. Even with unexpected imperfections like shrinking during the firing process, the final result was even better than Barnett conceived—and it’s a manifestation of her latest transformation. “That ceramic installation is my legacy wall,” she says.

Lewis views this concept of legacy as the foundation of this iteration of the renovation. “Changing your environment is changing self, and creating opportunities for a self that you do not recognize,” he explains. “I think this is one of the most critical things; it should invite a new version of an unseen self rather than ‘Oh, I know who I am.’”

**BREAKING AWAY FROM THE RIGIDITY** of traditional layouts, the collective vision for Barnett’s home was an open floor plan so “all of the spaces are linked to each other visually.” Another one of her requirements was being able to dance in every space in





IN THE KITCHEN, LULU AND GEORGIA PENDANT LIGHTS HANG ABOVE A WILLY BALLEZ TABLE. THE DINING CHAIRS AND COUNTER STOOLS ARE FROM FOUR HANDS. THE IKEA CABINETS HAVE BEEN OUTFITTED WITH DOORS BY SEMIHANDMADE. CUSTOM ACID-ETCHED-MIRROR BACKSPLASH; CUSTOM STONE-CLAD ISLAND; FRANKIE SINK AND FITTINGS; ALAARI WALLPAPER BY BARNETT FOR LULU AND GEORGIA; CURTAINS FROM THE SHADE STORE.

the house in the name of Black joy, so Lewis spent a lot of time thinking about fluidity in the context of how to physically maneuver throughout the space.

But the most important part of this collaborative process of “renovation as rejuvenation” (as Lewis puts it) was tapping into ancestral memory. Reflected in the circular mirror is a framed piece mounted on the opposite wall titled *Made for Mom* that weaves together pictures of Barnett’s grandmother, her mother, and her mother’s siblings. Not only is this Barnett’s special way of celebrating coming from what she describes as “a lineage of makers,” but the specific placement signals to others that they’re entering a space that is “occupied by the energy and synergy of Black women” that are “supporting you spiritually.”

The most pressing concern for the primary bedroom was “How do we create a place that is an invitation to sensuality and rest?” Lewis says. The designer answered this call with a neutral palette that combines subtle frequencies of pattern to effect a serene private haven. “This room is my sanctuary,”

Barnett avers. “It’s a space where I get to retreat and explore other parts of my life. Having my work around me is all a part of me sharing that love for self.”

**LEWIS APPLAUDS BARNETT’S VISION** in curating a space that fully represents Black heritage and culture, pointing out how “pretty much everything in this home has been made, manufactured, produced, and installed by Black hands.” At the same time, she doesn’t lose her own identity in the mix. “I’m committed to telling stories about my clients within their spaces so it feels like an architectural portrait,” he emphasizes.

Barnett sees her home as an investment in the community that she’s worked so hard to bring together, as much as an investment in herself. She hopes visitors feel a strong sense of permanence. “This work is not an individualistic culture project,” Barnett concludes. “It’s a collaboration of minds creatively, physically, and intuitively. That is how we create truly lived-in spaces.”



“Decorating space is about so much more than buying furnishings and placing items,” *Barnett* explains.







LEFT ARTWORKS BY M. FLORINE DÉMOSTHÈNE ARE DISPLAYED IN THE BEDROOM. THE SIDE TABLE, CHAIR, AND BARNETT-DESIGNED WALLPAPER ARE ALL FROM LULU AND GEORGIA. BED BY MAIDEN HOME; LISA HUNT DUVET COVER AND PILLOWCASES.



ART: M. FLORINE DÉMOSTHÈNE. MALENE DJENABA BARNETT. LEO TECOSKY.

OPPOSITE IN THE LIVING ROOM, WEST AFRICAN SCULPTURES FLANK AN ARTWORK BY BARNETT; ANOTHER HANGS ABOVE A VINTAGE ADRIAN PEARSALL SOFA (RIGHT). PEDESTAL TABLE FROM FOUR HANDS. RIGHT A CERAMIC HEAD BY BARNETT GREET VISITORS IN THE ENTRANCE HALL, AND A WEST AFRICAN SCULPTURE STANDS IN THE STAIR NICHE. STAR-SHAPED GLASS WORKS BY LEO TECOSKY; MOROCCAN RUNNER FROM BERBER ARTISAN AT FINE.



# IN FOCUS

Black Artists +  
Designers Guild  
founder *Malene Barnett* highlights six  
BADG members  
who are building on  
the legacy of Black  
women makers

## Karen J Revis Studio

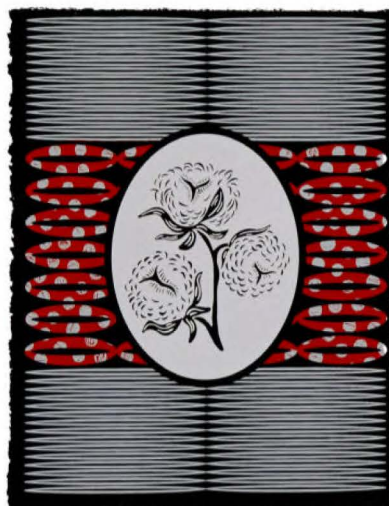
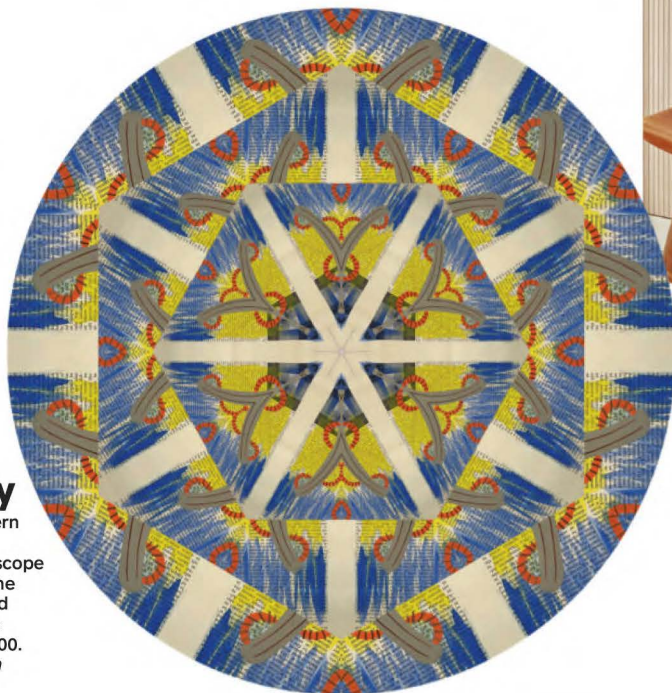
"I admire Karen's passion for paper and printmaking processes. I love how she draws a connection between Black experiences through color, pattern, and symbolic elements in each print." Below, the triptych *Spindle and Spun* A/P; \$6,500. [karenjrevis.com](http://karenjrevis.com)

## Cheryl R. Riley

"If you are a die-hard pattern lover like me, you will be drawn to Cheryl's Kaleidoscope art series. It exemplifies the beauty of vibrant color and pattern repeats in organic shapes." Right, *Begin I*; \$200. [cheryliriley.myshopify.com](http://cheryliriley.myshopify.com)

## Studio Lani

"I'm swooning over Lani's pendant lights. They exude a futuristic aura yet timeless sensibility. At the same time, their intricate sculptural forms celebrate metal artistry and craftsmanship." Above, Sisi Eko pendant light; price upon request. [studio-lani.com](http://studio-lani.com)



PORTRAIT: ASHOK SINHA; ARMCHAIR: FRANCIS AUGUSTINE.  
ALL OTHER PRODUCTS COURTESY OF THE COMPANIES.





## Malene Barnett for Lulu and Georgia

"I always look for ways to honor my mother. Bequia pays homage to one of the islands of her home country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean." Below, Bequia wallpaper; \$178. [luluandgeorgia.com](http://luluandgeorgia.com)



## Marie Burgos Collection

"Bold-colored, comfy chairs are great memories from my childhood. I love Marie's version of the midcentury-modern chair; it's a simple yet bold statement piece for any space." Below, Milo armchair; \$4,290. [marieburgoscollection.com](http://marieburgoscollection.com)



## Glenyse Thompson Contemporary Art

"Who doesn't want a piece of art to spark a conversation? Well, the art of conversation inspires Glenyse's work. Every time I gaze at the painted lines, and the color blending, it puts me in a dreamy state to visualize my life goals. I think about memories from the past and plan for the future." Below, *A Dance With Bill Murray*; \$1,300. [glenyse.com](http://glenyse.com)



## Oi Studio

"Studio founder and creative director Boa's work speaks to our shared island roots. The simplicity of the bench form and the textile's bold representation of Haiti's revolutionary women remind the world to take a seat and let Black women lead. Nuff said!" Below, Drop daybed; \$9,029. [oistudio.com](http://oistudio.com)