

CANDY- COLOURED OASIS

Designer Leah Ring's
kaleidoscopic weekend retreat in
California's Yucca Valley echoes
her wild and whimsical signature

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The living room is a petite space that packs a big punch. The custom tricoloured denim sofa nods to the sky blue walls. "The arm rests are padded for naps!" says Leah. The reclaimed wood coffee table is a labour of love by Leah's cousin, Peter Goldammer. The artwork is a Sarah Ippolito creation





The breakfast nook is anchored by a table designed by Leah and fabricated by Objects for Objects. "When I reconfigured the space, I put large picture windows in that corner so that we could enjoy our morning coffee and take in the sweeping desert views," she shares. The benches are another brainchild of Leah, executed by Fire on the Mesa

In California's Yucca Valley, where dry deserts lord over the land, colour can be hard to come by. For anyone but Leah Ring. "My personality is very bright and I love bold colours," says the designer and principal of Los Angeles-based interior design studio Another Human. Her 1000-square-foot desert home, designed as a pied-à-terre for herself and her husband, artist Adam de Boer, is proof. An eye-popping kaleidoscope of colour, there are no two rooms alike.

"Because I was just starting my firm at the time and had taken on so many projects, I wasn't able to create a comprehensive plan the way I would for a client. Rather, I went about the design room by room, bit by bit, in the little time I could steal on nights, early mornings and weekends," she recalls. In a way, the slow pace helped unleash her imagination and prompted her to channel her wild side. "Because this was never intended to be our full-time residence, I felt that I could push the colour palette to be a bit brighter. The surrounding desert is very neutral, as are a lot of the homes, so I wanted to create something unique, a colourful little desert retreat."

Small layouts and tightly arranged rooms meant that Leah had to be intentional about colour to make sure that the spaces presented like a cohesive whole. When she did dial up the palette, she did so unabashedly, making each space a vibrant world unto itself. The kitchen and bathroom are a classic case in point. Characterised by aqua blue and lime green tiles, they hold a mirror to each other while independently evoking curiosity. Leah's office space is another object lesson in whimsy. Emblazoned with a custom cloud mural wallpaper, it inspires a feeling of curious levitation. As for the bedrooms, the designer let loose with pattern, introducing colourful, untamed squiggles in the way of a crimson headboard in one space and a blue-patterned nightstand in another.

Another Human's past life as an exclusive furniture studio is writ large across the home. Custom furniture of Leah's own design sits on an even plane with art and objects made by dear friends, and vintage novelties sourced via Etsy. "I wanted to create a space that felt totally unique so I tried to avoid big box retailers and pieces that look trendy," she shares. The unconventional choices extended to the floor, which Leah elevated with a cork treatment that would work with the uneven concrete foundation underneath while also serving as a cooling counterpoint to the soaring desert mercury.



Leah's office features a custom cloud mural wallpaper and a lacquered wall-to-wall desk. For the design of the chair and ottoman, she took inspiration from funky puffer jackets

Six years ago, when she began work on the home, Leah admits she didn't have a clear vision. Not that it was a bad thing. The freewheeling process might even have helped her play to her strengths. "I'm incredibly grateful for the project and everything it taught me, because I feel like the home reflects me, my taste and my personality in a very unique way," she signs off. ♦

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The primary bedroom is an all-green escape with an artwork by Lilah Rose and a vintage headboard. The nightstand, Leah's own design, is inspired by a vintage Royere credenza



Aqua and lime green tiles from Daltile's Natural Hues collection emblazon the floor and walls of the primary bathroom