

Domestic Bliss

At Home With... Katie Brown

THE LIFESTYLE GURU OF *KATIE BROWN WORKSHOP* BRINGS THE SAME ENERGY TO HER NEW HOME AS SHE DOES TO HER TV SHOWS, PRODUCTS, AND BOOKS

Katie Brown is the ultimate go-to girl. The TV star founded an empire on enthusiastic tips and helpful advice on everything from decorating to dining. So it was out of character when she recently found herself challenged: how to furnish her new home—a four-story town house in Brooklyn, New York—and do it fast. “I wanted one-stop shopping and beautiful, high-quality furniture,” she says. The two people she trusts the most offered the same advice. “Both my mother and my mother-in-law told me if I couldn’t buy a house full of antiques, I had to go to Drexel Heritage,” Brown says. “I figured if they both agreed, I had to check it out.”

With her friend the stylist Stephanie Di Tullio, Brown took a tour of the Drexel Heritage showroom, where they picked out furnishings

Katie Brown relaxes with daughter Prentiss in their Brooklyn town house. “It’s the perfect mother-daughter seat,” Brown says of her Drexel Heritage “Maggie” settee, from \$1,900.



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for the whole house. "Literally every piece is Drexel Heritage," says Brown, who paired the traditional-style furniture with quirky found objects and eclectic art. "It was easy to layer with their pieces, and I love to scour for funky things to mix it up."

She brought the town house windows back to their original prewar condition and, inspired by floors she saw in Europe, refinished her own in reclaimed barn wood found at Conklin's in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania. Brown has few hard-and-fast rules about decorating in the home, but she does believe that you should always have something reflective and something black in every room. "Black is so much fun, and it makes any room sexy," she says. "But only deep, dark, shiny black, nothing halfway."

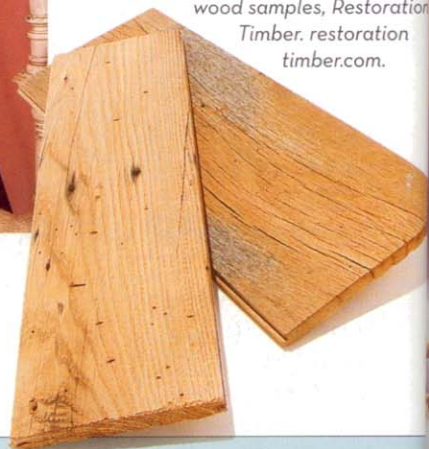
The ground floor of the Brooklyn town house is now the headquarters of her media and design platform, *Katie Brown Workshop*. A combination of office space, test kitchen, and creative den, the space is a buzzing hive of activity, cluttered with people, planning boards, and projects. "I love my commute now," Brown says with a laugh. Sounds like she's taken her own advice: keep it simple.



"What can I say—I have a daughter who's obsessed with pink. It's not my favorite color, but I decided to indulge her." Lingerie chest, from \$3,100, Drexel Heritage. drexelheritage.com.



"Floors should have some character. Reclaimed barn wood is so beautiful; it's an added bonus to know that it's repurposed." Chestnut and white oak reclaimed wood samples, Restoration Timber. restorationtimber.com.



"I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT MY NEW LINE OF PRODUCTS. THE VERSATILE COLORS AND STYLES ARE GREAT FOR EVERYONE." SHOPKATIEBROWN.COM.



"I wanted to create a warm welcome upon entering the house and provide contrast from all the white in the living room. This Studio Printworks paper is a real treat for the eyes: the big pineapples are like a little hit of happiness. And the yellow and aubergine are such a gorgeous color combination." Pineapple wallpaper, Studio Printworks. Available to the trade, through Hinson & Co.



"Hanging spice racks are great in the kitchen. I like ones that are big enough to hold my own blends. My favorite combination to mix together is fresh thyme, basil, and rosemary, with a bit of orange or lemon zest. The flavors blend beautifully, and it's great as a marinade or on salads." One-line spice rack, \$200, Desu Design. desudesign.com.



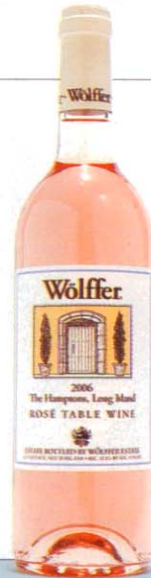
"I am a private cook. I like my kitchen closed off, away from family or friends. Cooking is my time to be creative, so I don't want to be interrupted or entertained. When you're having a party, make what you know you're good at. I'm a huge fan of comfort foods like chicken Marbella or meatloaf." Oval dishes, from \$25, Le Creuset. 877-273-8738.





< “We wanted really happy colors in the house. This violet seemed like a bright and cheerful choice for the kids’ bathroom, and neutral enough for girls or boys. The Brockway wash sink came from Kohler. We thought it would be more fun to use something really big like you’d find at school or camp.”

> “In the summer I love to entertain outdoors. You have to have drinks out and drinks plentiful as soon as guests arrive. Wölffer Estate on Long Island makes a really fun rosé. Lightly chilled, it’s excellent with any type of food.” 2005 Rosé Table Wine, \$10, Wölffer Estate. 631-537-5106.



> “Good lighting is so important. A range of sources at different heights creates the best ambience. I love Jamie Young’s lamps. Everyone should know about her.” Jasmine table lamp, \$1,165, Jamie Young. 866-295-2677.

“I THINK YOU DEVELOP A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR HOME THAT YOU CONSTANTLY WANT TO IMPROVE. ONCE IT STOPS EVOLVING, IT’S TIME TO MOVE ON—THE LOVE AFFAIR IS OVER.”



< “The range of Drexel’s products really surprised me. You can mix up pieces from each of their collections, and they’ll all come together to make a nice story. They also have shapes and sizes for all homes, so no matter what you’ve got, you can find something.” Ruthanne sofa in Classic Cherry, from \$1,920.



> “I drool every time I go into the Container Store. I love their plastic bins, and they have the best closet solutions. It’s important to make your storage space part of your living space, incorporating the objects in an attractive way.” Nested woven nylon bins, \$30 each, Container Store. 888-266-8246. Anthony ottoman, from \$960, Drexel Heritage. drexelheritage.com.

> “Having fresh herbs in the kitchen forces you to use them. Plus they smell so good. I like the traditional potted Bonnie plants, but it’s also fun to arrange cut herbs in little vases.” Garden in a Bag herbs, \$8 each, Potting Shed Creations. branchhome.com.

