



## Contemporary art and whimsical style transform design star David Bromstad's Bal Harbour home.

David Bromstad can enter anyone's home and quickly redefine it with vivid color that screams the "wow" factor. But when the popular HGTV star, artist, muralist, entertainer and product designer bought his own condo in Bal Harbour four years ago, he needed time to get it right. The 2,200-square-foot, 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath apartment was filled with neutrals, blacks and creams.

Since the previous owner and Bromstad had opposite views on design, the transformer had plenty of interior space in which to add his Technicolor touch. "I am the color guy," laughs Bromstad, 39. "At first, I thought everything needed to be color. So I did a quick mini makeover with crazy colors, but I didn't like it. I soon realized that I couldn't live with it."

So he switched gears with the décor much the same way he switched gears on television. Bromstad, who won HGTV's Design Star competition in 2007—which gave rise to Color Splash, a home renovation show made fascinating by his brilliant use of color—now hosts and mentors the network's White Room Challenge, where contestants transform a white room into something original, eccentric, and sometimes outrageous.

He used this tactic to recreate his own condo. "I decided I wanted an all-white house," he says, "even though my partner dislikes any kind of change."



*The HGTV star loves to relax with his French bulldog, Dozer, in a small room off of the kitchen. He feels the comfort of home when he sees his pink flamingo because it screams South Florida. The Chesterfield chair comes from Mondri in Miami.*

Bromstad ended up using black, white and gray, working up his color fix from that neutral palette by adding a variety of bold art and cool furnishings. He gradually grew into the new look, but it took some time. "It was actually hilarious," he says. "It took me two years to complete. This is not how I usually work."

His modern, art-filled condo with its fantastic water views doesn't have high ceilings, yet the overall vibe exudes energy and excitement, thanks to a large entertainment space that includes the living room, formal dining room and extended kitchen. This all-in-one space is perfect for Bromstad, who loves to entertain. "We are casual, not stuffy, around here," he explains. "I love people to come over and take off their

shoes, even at holiday parties. I want them to relax, so I have a huge 12×8-foot microsuede couch for lounging. They can sit there amid the wildly colorful throw pillows and find a lot to look at."

For example, over cocktails and appetizers with all white place settings—his favorite way to entertain—guests have the option to gaze out at the water from expansive windows, or take in the art and furnishings.

There is indeed a great deal to see.

The dining room is dazzling in mid-century modern design. Bromstad's color wheel is spinning in overdrive with a red chandelier, vintage chartreuse credenza and chunky round white dining table in corresponding gray and black stripes with wire chairs over a black throw rug jazzed up with white squares.



*Bromstad and his partner disagree on the impact of the wild green wallpaper but it only covers one wall, so all is well. The Mona Lisa throw pillow on the bed is really a dog bed. "I love the contrasts in our bedroom," says the designer. "The baroque bed with the modern vases is my favorite."*

A cozy room off of the kitchen is highlighted by a collection of Ellie Smith colored glass in a swirl of colors: red, orange, blue, green and yellow. This collection started with a mid-century Viking glass bowl from Bromstad's late grandmother's stash and was expanded by fruitful eBay purchases. "I bought tons of colorful vases, which make me look like a collector," he quips. The artsy room also features a vinyl Chesterfield chair, a soft white lambskin rug (ideal for bare feet), a pink flamingo that pays homage to Florida kitsch, and contemporary artwork by the designer and his partner, who works with him in the business.



The bar area, also off of the kitchen, is made unique by a hanging portrait of a strange girl holding a cat, which he bought at a thrift store. He drew a fuzzy mustache on her face to add some humor. "I thought the picture was really creepy and wanted to give it a sense of fun," he says.

The formal living room with dark wood floors is a knockout and the focal point of the condo, because it dominates and also ties together the entertaining areas and their whimsical pieces. The former Disney artist proves he is never afraid to brighten up a space with creative mixes and matches that impart a Fantasyland vibe.

Bromstad created a crazy vignette in the center of the floor with a variety of starry-eyed showstoppers. The best is a witty, tall, geometric "OPEN" sign (originally from a drive-in theater), which came to the designer through a movie prop house. Dazzling and eccentric, it illuminates on both sides with bulbs from Germany and brightens the entire room. A pair of chartreuse egg chairs from Miami are comfortable and cool, and sit on white sheepskin rugs over a black and white graphic throw rug from IKEA. The layering effect works well with the bold colors and contrasts. A center coffee table chest from Union Jack was painted in colorful stripes by Bromstad and looks like it belongs in the middle of this scene-setting vignette. "Every house needs a multicolored chest, don't you think?" he jokes.



*The dining room is highlighted by the red chandelier, a gift from Bromstad's partner. The chunky table was bought at a sale, then adorned with stripes.*



Even though Bromstad sleeps only three hours at a time, the bedroom had to be as clever as the public spaces. The thrift store bed is all white and looks like porcelain after the designer sprayed it with flat white paint. An array of throw pillows feature motifs from geometric to a black, white and gray mix to a Mona Lisa face (which is actually a dog bed that he purchased at a pet supply store), add texture, whimsy and color. "I don't shop at high-end stores. I like casual and well made pieces," he says. "I seek them out and make them work."

More funky and fun art fills the Bal Harbour condo's entryway. Atop the throw rug is a cool Philippe Starck chair with fabric from Dolce & Gabbana, done as a collaboration by Kartell.



Bromstad enjoys pop art with a sense of whimsy so party guests have something to laugh about when they enter the room. Right: In the living room, he painted the chest himself, then added the red glass collection for a splash of color. "There is a baroque moment in every space," he says.



Bromstad bought the modern black and white vases—"a rare treasure"—at an Ohio thrift store for \$250. He says the vintage chartreuse credenza is a unique piece that sets the tone for the dining room and other public areas.

Green wallpaper ordered from the United Kingdom is noisy with oversized prints but only covers one wall near the bed; his white side table is a replica of a face and was discovered in a gallery. A graphic throw rug is simple and fun, something guests like to study.

While Bromstad likes the baroque bed, the pops of color with neutrals, and the contrasts of the room, his partner isn't as pleased. "My boyfriend doesn't like the green wallpaper even though it's only in one place," he points out. "But he knows I have my bold moments."

He enjoyed redesigning the condo and loves to return home from business trips and just kick back. The apartment is chic yet casual, energizing yet easy, a nice place to dream about while flying back to Miami. "I am so happy to come home after working all over the place," says the busy designer. "I take off my shoes, kiss my boyfriend, and fall on the couch. With the views outside and the surrounding fun decor, this has become a hard-to-leave space."

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