

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair sitting in a white armchair in a living room. The room has white walls covered in a dense pattern of small, colorful butterflies. A large window with white blinds is in the background. A green sofa is positioned against the wall. A white coffee table with a vase of purple flowers sits in front of the sofa. A large, ornate mirror is on the left wall. The word 'billie' is written in large, light blue lowercase letters across the top of the image.

billie

GLAMROCK AVIARY

When Atlanta native Chassie Post, a lifestyle editor at Gilt.com, first saw the Manhattan loft where she and her family now live she totally dismissed it. Who would have known! Thanks partly to the genius of her über talented friend, decorator Miles Redd, and visionary renovations by architect-duo Meyer Davis, the spacious loft now has the look of a very chic aviary. Chassie, like a beautiful bird of paradise, now resides among butterflies and sparkly guitars with her musician husband Phil Costello and their 8-year-old son. +



"We bought this loft after we got married and moved to Chelsea from the East Village. It was Phil who could see the potential and talked me into it. It had an enormous faux river rock wall in the middle of the space with a pentagram shaped mirror and stipple plaster that looked like Baked Alaska on the ceilings," recalls Post. Yikes! Despite their disparate provenance (the giant butterfly was found on the street and the sideboard was inherited from Post's grandmother) the furnishings feel unified thanks to Chassie's decision to paint the ceilings and floors robin's egg blue while keeping most of the upholstered pieces slip-covered in white. +



“When we moved back in after the renovation I had everything in boxes and artwork all over the floor. Seeing the repeating pattern, Miles (Redd) called me up and said that he would be arriving the next day and that every painting in the loft was going up on the walls. Arranging a disparate group of contemporary and traditional art around a giant gilded mirror, he completely transformed the space,” muses Post. Chassie bought the mirror ages ago in Georgia and the French armchair was scored on Ebay. +



On the coffee table, which was found at an auction by Miles Redd, sit some of Post's favorite things. "The two gem-like Murano glass ashtrays were gifts from my husband. I love that they look like big jewels and started collecting them," she coos. As for her design philosophy, Post likes to push the boundaries. "I want my environment to make me happy, to challenge me and inform the way I step out into the world, but I also wanted our place to feel slightly inappropriate - like wearing black lace, long gloves and big jewelry as daywear." +



As Post could never get used to a kitchen being in the middle of everything they first wanted to cover it up entirely with sliding doors. "In Georgia you didn't live in your kitchen!" Chassie exclaims. Instead Post and Costello designed the kitchen cabinets taking full advantage of the ceiling height to create maximum storage space. Their architects, Meyer and Davis, suggested putting in a rolling library ladder to access the top row but they felt it might ruin the impact of the artsy grid. Now they wish they had obliged! +



You can find the same grey veined marble around the kitchen counter and the bathroom. Regarding the art around the loft Post says "In my former life I owned a gallery of contemporary emerging artists so I have quite a bit of art," explains Post. Favorites include work by artists she once represented like Carolyn Carr, Sharon Shapiro, Sean Mellyn, Tony Hernandez, Michael Holman and Daniel Soder mixed with other more traditional works by Claude Garache, along with sentimental pieces including an oil portrait of her grandmother." +



The family's china is a mix of wedding gifts and easy pieces from Pearl River. "I chose the bird and butterfly pattern (Herend's Queen Victoria) as well as Herend's Rothschild Bird - my Mom's suggestion for everyday china!" exclaims Post. But because that's not how they usually live, she also bought a bunch of inexpensive blue and white dinnerware from Pearl River.+



A big white lacquer dining table sitting in the middle of the loft is another hand-me-down from Miles Redd, sent over following a charity dinner he'd used it for. The lengthy table now floats in the middle of the room like a slick canoe, surrounded by a series of white stacking chairs. Two are from West Elm and four are molded plastic "Selene" chairs by Vico Magistretti from Artemide (care of Billie's own Lili Diallo!). +



"I love birds and butterflies and fell in love with this mad wallpaper from Schumacher, designed in the 60's. It reminded me of a campy version of a Gracie paper and I envisioned a technicolor aviary. I also wanted the loft to feel like an eccentrically fab grandmother had lived there, left all of her belongings around and we just moved in with some modern furniture and art." she admits. At the time I thought it would read a lot brighter but once we wallpapered almost every square inches of this loft, it turned out fairly monochromatic. In fact, it's far more elegant and mature than what I was originally going for!" recalls Post. +



Juxtaposition of a traditional sideboard against modern art is one of the loft subtle decorating strength. The painting, entitled "Now I'm Gonna Take a Vacation" by Rita Ackerman, was scooped up after Chassie visited a show of her work at Andrea Rosen Gallery. "I started getting into her when she illustrated the cover of a Sonic Youth album. I really wanted this huge painting she had done on denim but it sold so I bought this one and I do love it," says Post. The sideboard is a hand-me-down from her sister (though Chassie gave it her own spin with a swath of greyish-green paint). +



The clean modernism of this bathroom has a different feel from the rest of the apartment thanks to architects Meyer Davis. With beautiful natural materials like stone and marble, the space doesn't need anything other than daily fresh flowers (though Post couldn't resist adding a "pop" with the graphic black and white shower curtain).+



In the bedroom Post went big on pattern to add dimension the space was lacking. "This room is **SMALL** so we wanted it to feel like a little jewel box," she says. Channeling a bit of her mother's traditional Southern charm, she opted for Quadrille's Paradise Background wallpaper. "My mother, who is a very talented decorator, first took me to the showroom and I loved their toile silhouette fabrics. They had started making wallcoverings and made this for me in my beloved turquoise," she muses. Also from her mother are the hot pink bedside lamps and the giant neo-Rococo mirror ("awesomely garish!") along with the Matouk linens. +



Right: Wearing a vintage Tracy Feith dress that she altered to create a train, Post swoons over the light in the apartment. "At the right time of day it really feels like you are floating in here," she says. The sofa is from an antique shop in Atlanta and has had a few upholstery moments over the years. These days it's wearing an apple green velvet that accentuates the timeless shape.

Left: Rocker husband Phil Costello is a guitarist and lead singer. Playing in several bands, he tours the UK often and has joined forces with some bold faced names (think Moby). +



"The Staffordshire dog was given to me by my mother. That old dog broke after I lugged it to a Today Show segment to use as prop. We just slapped some blue painters tape on it and I thought it looked hot!" she exclaimed with typical Post cheekiness.

On decorating: "I am all too aware of what decorating can cost and if there is one thing that I have learned it's that subtlety is expensive! Therefore, I am drawn to a bold statement. I am by nature a maximalist. My modus operandi is to invest in the walls. If you give the walls the drama, then you can slipcover everything else and you suddenly have a cohesive whole - without ending up broke." Well said Madame Post! +