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High Style in the Lowcountry

Angie Hranowsky creates a relaxed yet sophisticated design for a client’s 1940s home

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As an interior decorator with a modern aesthetic living in historic Charleston, South Carolina, **Angie Hranowsky** could seem a bit out of place. Her distinctive style, however, seems to have worked to her advantage. "It turns out I’ve filled a niche," she says. "People are looking for something besides the traditional look that’s always been offered here. And that’s where I come in."

Hranowsky and her husband moved to Charleston in 2000, and while she worked during the day as a graphic designer, she spent her free time tackling her new home’s interiors. It was a project that changed the course of her career after a friend suggested she send photographs of her work to some of the national design magazines. "Everyone who entered my house, down to the cable guy, was asking if I was an interior designer," she says. "I figured I had nothing to lose." *Metropolitan Home* picked up the story, and Hranowsky instantly became a sought-after Southern talent.

Hranowsky’s designs are filled with clean, modern lines and bright, textured patterns. This style attracted Daphne Shelborne, who hired the designer to help her hunt for a modern home and then decorate the new space. But modern architecture can be hard to come by in Charleston, and, in the end, the client settled on a 1940s home with great bones. "She was a little nervous it wasn’t modern enough," says the designer. "I told her, ‘If you like what I do on the inside, the architecture won’t matter.’"

With her cultivated eye, Hranowsky created an environment that’s both carefully curated and comfortable. Vintage pieces complement a contemporary vibe, and bold patterns blend nicely into eclectically arranged vignettes. When asked how she achieves this balance in her designs, Hranowsky says, "It seems I’m made for this. I look back now and realize it’s what I should have always been doing. Everything just comes naturally."

An antique tapestry complements the master bedroom’s vintage rattan headboard. "Texture, fabric, materials, color, artwork—these things are so important in a space," says decorator Angie Hranowsky. "When balanced properly, rooms become lively and inviting."
“Putting a daybed in the living room helps a seating arrangement feel less formal and more comfortable,” says Hranowsky.
An olive-colored sofa by Lee Industries grounds the living room's color scheme.
Hranowsky divided the living room into multiple seating areas. "These tub chairs are small and intimate," she says, "the perfect size to create an intimate seating arrangement in front of the fireplace."

Angie’s Advice
Making Every Room Livable

One
Mix textures.

Two
Add a personal touch with accessories, art, and lots of books.

Three
Incorporate things that soften a room, such as rugs, pillows, and window treatments.

Four
Create an interesting and inviting color palette.
Hranowsky designed the living room to be elegant yet livable. “I can’t stand living rooms that are never used,” she says. “This space needed to be comforting and inviting.”

This subtle vintage end table provides an ideal spot for drinks or magazines.

Lucite bookends don’t take up any visual space, letting your books be the focus.
The dining room is where the family members eat all their meals. “It’s a space they utilize every day, so it couldn’t be overly formal,” says Hranowsky. Burlap drapes trimmed in a Kelly Wearstler textile are casual yet sophisticated.
A metal sculpture hangs above a chest in the dining room.

Angie’s Tips
Go-To Shops in Charleston

one
Antiques of South Windermere

two
17 South Antiques

three
ESD

two
Bird Decorative Hardware & Bath

two
Tile & Stone
Hranowsky chose a yellow trellis wallpaper by Manuel Canovas for the kitchen. “The color and pattern emphasize the tiled floor,” says Hranowsky.
“You want to think about the way colors and patterns work together in the home overall, but it’s important to differentiate spaces,” says Hranowsky. “Too much matching makes for bland design.”

In the kitchen, Hranowsky merely replaced the wallpaper and lighting fixture. “The previous owners had renovated it beautifully with stainless steel appliances, great tile flooring, and chic cabinets,” says Hranowsky.
To create a cozy, bohemian atmosphere in the den, Hranowsky paired a vintage tufted sofa with a brass tray table and graphic Roman shades. Vintage Asian screens complete the look.
Hranowsky kept the upstairs bathroom’s original tiling, sink, and tub. Prints by Perla Anne, a friend of Hranowsky’s, hang on the wall.

### Angie’s Secrets

**Using Bold Patterns**

Mix big and small prints.

- Make sure the patterns relate to the overall design of the space.
- Work within a color palette, but bring in contrasting colors where they work.
- Make sure you achieve balance. If you’re using bold patterns, you may need to incorporate solids to keep a space from being over the top.
- Beware of using too many tiny patterns. They can easily make a space seem busy and a room feel smaller.
The John Robshaw quilt inspired the master bedroom’s color scheme. A vintage lamp sits on a mirrored Eva side table by Oly.
The client found this painting in her mother-in-law’s basement. “She asked if I liked it, and I said ‘Are you kidding? Give me a hammer and nail; we are hanging this right now!’” says Hranowsky. Vases decorate the vintage chest. “Nothing is ever finished until it’s accessorized,” she adds.
Hranowsky carried the toile wallpaper across the ceiling in the daughter’s bedroom. “It disguises the fact that the ceiling has awkward lines,” she says. Vintage lamps flank the bed.
A repurposed loveseat and vintage light fixtures create a cozy seating area.

Chinese lanterns playfully accessorize a vintage desk.

"With the stuffed lion, zebra rug, and floral wallpaper, you’d almost think we were going for a jungle theme in here," says Hranowsky.