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HOUSE & GARDEN

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Domestic Bliss

AT HOME WITH ... **LAURA KIRAR**

AS SHE DEBUTS HER BATH LINE FROM KALLISTA, THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGNER—AND NEW FACE OF BAKER FURNITURE—REVEALS HER INSPIRATIONS

Laura Kirar is drawn to imperfection. "I see beauty in flaws," muses the interior designer, who has lately branched out into bath and furniture design. "The more 'off' something is, the more I like it—it shows the presence of the human hand." Her appreciation for craftsmanship distinguishes her new bath suite for Kallista, which nods to Bauhaus design and the 1930s furniture of Eileen Gray. "My collection is very straightforward and clean," says Kirar, "but with detailing that makes it warm and personal." Take the bronze finish on the taps and fixtures: "In time, it wears like a statue that's been handled and loved." Kirar's New York apartment bears a similar patina. "It's all worn and funky," says the designer, who is slowly overhauling the D-

Kirar in her Upper East Side Manhattan apartment. Her new bath collection for Kallista reflects her love of these materials and clean lines: "I like details that don't hit you over the head."



BY JEN RENZI • PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRANÇOIS DISCHINGER

AT HOME WITH... LAURA KIRAR

▷ Light-strewn serene with her husband, Richard Frazier, she serves as director for the Stephanie Odegaard Collection of home furnishings and luxury goods. "If you don't have the time or money to renovate all at once, you need vision and perseverance. It's like growing out a bad haircut," she says with a laugh.

In her office at Tu Design, the firm she founded after stints at Holly Hunt and Jed Johnson Associates, Kirar works amid bric-a-brac—"jewelry, textiles, whatever I'm crazy about at that moment." At home, she aspires to visual quiet—an ideal compromised by cohabitation. "Richard loves to have his collections around him at all times," she says, before fessing up to her own acquisitiveness. "I have way too many chairs, I know!" she says of her many perches, which range from a 20th French design (a \$25 flea market find) to lacquered dining chairs she designed for Dennis Miller Associates.

Soon Kirar will add more chairs to the mix her furniture line for Baker launches next year. "We're in the conceptual stage, my favorite part," she says. "It's the one moment that's completely full of promise."

DOMESTIC BLISS

▷ "These Carnegie upholstery fabrics derive from photographs I took of light reflecting off underseas plants, tree canopies, and coral. The motifs are vaguely forest, without being too sweet." Art of Light Collection, \$45 per yard, Carnegie.carnegiefabrics.com



"IN MY BATH, I USE ANTIQUE GLASS BOTTLES FOR ORANGE WATER, LIQUID SOAP, AND BUBBLE BATH. AND JAPANESE POTTERY IS PERFECT FOR STORING COTTON BALLS AND BAR SOAP."

▷ "Once you try a sonic toothbrush, there's no way you can ever go back to using a regular one." IntellioClean System, \$395, Ig Sonicare and Co., 888-766-0227, intellioclean.com



▷ "I'm a fan of the Wiener Werkstätte philosophy—that patience for the creative process. We're been collecting Viennese glass for years. The materials and patterns are a huge inspiration for my lighting designs."



▷ "All of our paint colors are our own invention. Not a single one is straight out of the can. For the kitchen, we mixed three paints to create a color that reads as blue in daylight and green at night." Regal AquaGlo latex paint, \$29.99, \$29.99, \$29.99, and \$29.99, \$1 per quart, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com



▷ "Erich Theophile does most of my custom metalwork. He just fabricated his own door fittings line for A.I. New York, to go with his beautiful organic-inspired and contemporary hardware." Silver-plated doorknobs, \$380, H. Theophile, NYC, 212-237-0032



"THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN A SPACE THAT'S OVERLIT. INSTALL DIMMERS AND USE FULL-SPECTRUM BULBS, WHICH SHOW COLORS BEST."

▷ "I like a thick cotton bath mat that can be tossed in the wash daily. There's nothing worse than walking barefoot on cold, wet tile floors." Curly-loop cotton bath rug in Tart and Frost, \$50 each, DKNY, dknyc.com



▷ "Richard and I found this Bauhaus-inspired desk at Le Corbusier's Hotel Purite in Capri. It was the check-in desk at a spa nearby. Richard was convinced it was a Le Corbusier. After months of transatlantic haggling through a dealer, the desk was ours. Once we got it, we discovered it wasn't a Corbu after all. But we loved it so much that provenance didn't matter."



▷ "I hate cleaning! But I love the lavender scent of Mrs. Meyer's aromatherapeutic cleaning products." Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day lavender laundry detergent, \$9 for 64 oz or \$27.50 for 48-oz, www.mrsmeyers.com



▷ "I was so excited to discover that the Neue Galerie made gift wrap from Godebert Peche's wallpaper designs. I wallpapered my powder room in one of the patterns, using a simple decoupage technique—just apply to the wall with a mix of Elmer's glue and water, and seal with acrylic gel." Wrapping paper: Art, \$34, Neue Galerie Design Shop, NYC, 212-914-0495.



▷ "Our apartment is about light and air, so for contrast I thought the entry should be darker, more mysterious. I designed the bronze light fixture to look like candlelight. I painted the walls a deep charcoal purple and stenciled the waffle-like border by hand—it's my tip of the hat to Jean Cocteau." For more, see howandgetthere.com. □



▷ "I'm partial to shower curtains in interesting textures. The wildest one I've designed was made of raw brass mesh—striped of its coating so it oxidized to a beautiful pale green-gold over time." Aluminum Brass mesh, starts at \$20 per square foot, Whiting & Davis, 800-630-6334, whitinganddavis.com

