

# Gray<sup>TM</sup>

MAGAZINE: PACIFIC NORTHWEST DESIGN

{ DESIGN WORTH }

## flipping over

CELEBRATING CONTRASTS:

*Pro skater • Fashion designer*

NEW FAMILY • EMPTY NESTING

*Furniture maker • Motorcycle builder*

WEST COAST • EAST COAST

& so on ...

Nesting on top  
OF THE WORLD



# HIGH-LOW

A former ad woman takes her new interior design career home, where treasured objects meet big-box modern design.

Written by LINDSEY M. ROBERTS  
Photographed by DAVID PAPAIZIAN







**OPPOSITE:** Interior designer **Lynne Parker** takes her high-low style to her outdoor entertaining space in Portland, where a tablecloth from **Anthropologie** and lanterns from **Target** pair well with a collection of vases from her family's 12 years in The Netherlands. **THIS PAGE:** Parker shipped her outdoor furniture collection from The Netherlands to her Portland house.

DESIGN TEAM

*interior design:* **Lynne Parker Design**  
*contractor:* **Hammer & Hand**





Interior designer **Lynne Parker**'s take on the high-low concept of decorating for her own house is one where the "high" comes not from fancy stores but from her collected life abroad. A black chandelier from a French antique fair, a side buffet from Holland, a collection of African masks and art—together, they make a house otherwise full of goods from big-box stores such as **Design Within Reach**, **Anthropologie**, and **Crate and Barrel** feel personal and unique.

Parker's travels occurred in her first career, when she worked in advertising and marketing for **Nike** and **Tommy Hilfiger**. She learned the art of storytelling from this line of work and found that it transferred well to her favorite hobby: designing interiors. "Every time we find a house, I love the idea of finding out the story behind it," she says. "I gravitate to old houses because the story can be a little deeper."

In 2008, her family found a 1906 house in Portland. Despite



**OPPOSITE:** A gray **Gus** sofa sets a neutral background for the fabulously funky custom pillows, while it's the black-and-white patterned chairs from **Bedford Brown** that bring the funk to calmer bird-print pillows from **Anthropologie**. The Noguchi Table is from **Design Within Reach**; the side table and lamp are from **West Elm**. **THIS PAGE:** A farmhouse table from **Crate and Barrel** is a country-cozy foil to the shiny black side buffet found in a flea market in Holland. Lamps are from **West Elm**, dining chairs are from **Design Within Reach**.



its being on the National Register of Historic Places, the 4,500-square-foot residence had been in disrepair for a long time, Parker says, with things functional but not comfortable for living. Parker went in and “aesthetically changed everything,” she says. “I tried to pay homage to its era, but not stay locked and loaded.” That mission was inspired by her husband and two daughters’ 12 years abroad in The Netherlands, where she saw the Dutch using centuries-old houses in new ways and

with modern furnishings: “Those eras can sit together if done the right way.”

The master bathroom, for instance, was converted from an extra, unused bedroom. But the claw-foot tub was saved from another bathroom’s remodel and now sits squarely in the middle of the room, surrounded by a luxurious amount of space. An old door painted black and a wall-to-wall, ceiling-to-floor mirror bring the space fully into our current era. In this room, Parker





Before the transformation,  
the kitchen was a country style completed by  
previous owner. I wanted to have a more  
grow-up kitchen, functional enough for a  
family but **pretty enough for  
numerous dinner  
parties.**

—LYNNE PARKER

Designer Lynne Parker found antique-like glass tiles for the backsplash that respect the house's history yet add some sophisticated shine. Glass cabinet pulls from **Anthropologie** continue the moments of reflection to the gray cabinets. The island legs are meant to mimic a big farm table, with black granite as a work surface for holiday baking and party prep. Sinks are from **Chown Hardware**.



Viking







prefers the neutral palette, which helps her relax when she takes her daily bath, a “ritual at the end of each night.”

Elsewhere in the house, bright and bold colors reflect Parker’s upbringing in Louisiana, where she learned to have “a zing in her step.” She finds that the colors are perfect for the Northwest, which is much like Amsterdam in that “it rains a lot and it’s gray a lot,” she says. “I like a pop of color.”

Parker also put her lessons learned in her travels abroad into play in the backyard. The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries, so its people find ways to create pockets of oases wherever they can. As with the Dutch, Parker’s backyard became an outdoor living room, with sofas and a dining table. As Parker says: “You walk through the house, this grand old lady, and then it’s, ‘Wow! Secret garden.’”

But the real secret is Parker’s masterful mix of high and low, new and old, to tell her family’s story of travels and past lives. As in any good ending, this house will live happily ever after. ✨





**OPPOSITE TOP:** A claw-foot tub original to the house sits in a spacious master bath—what was formerly a bedroom. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The artwork is from a friend of Parker's, while the wallpaper is from online source **Brewster Home Fashions**. **THIS PAGE:** In the master bedroom, one finds Parker's love of vibrant color. The custom upholstered headboard in gray and chartreuse is an unexpected match for the brights in the **Anthropologie** bedding. The side chest is from **Bedford Brown** and the lamp is from **Macy's**.