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TO Paris

AFTER A WHOPPING 29 VISITS, MARI JOHNSON STILL FINDS INSPIRATION IN THE CITY OF LIGHT



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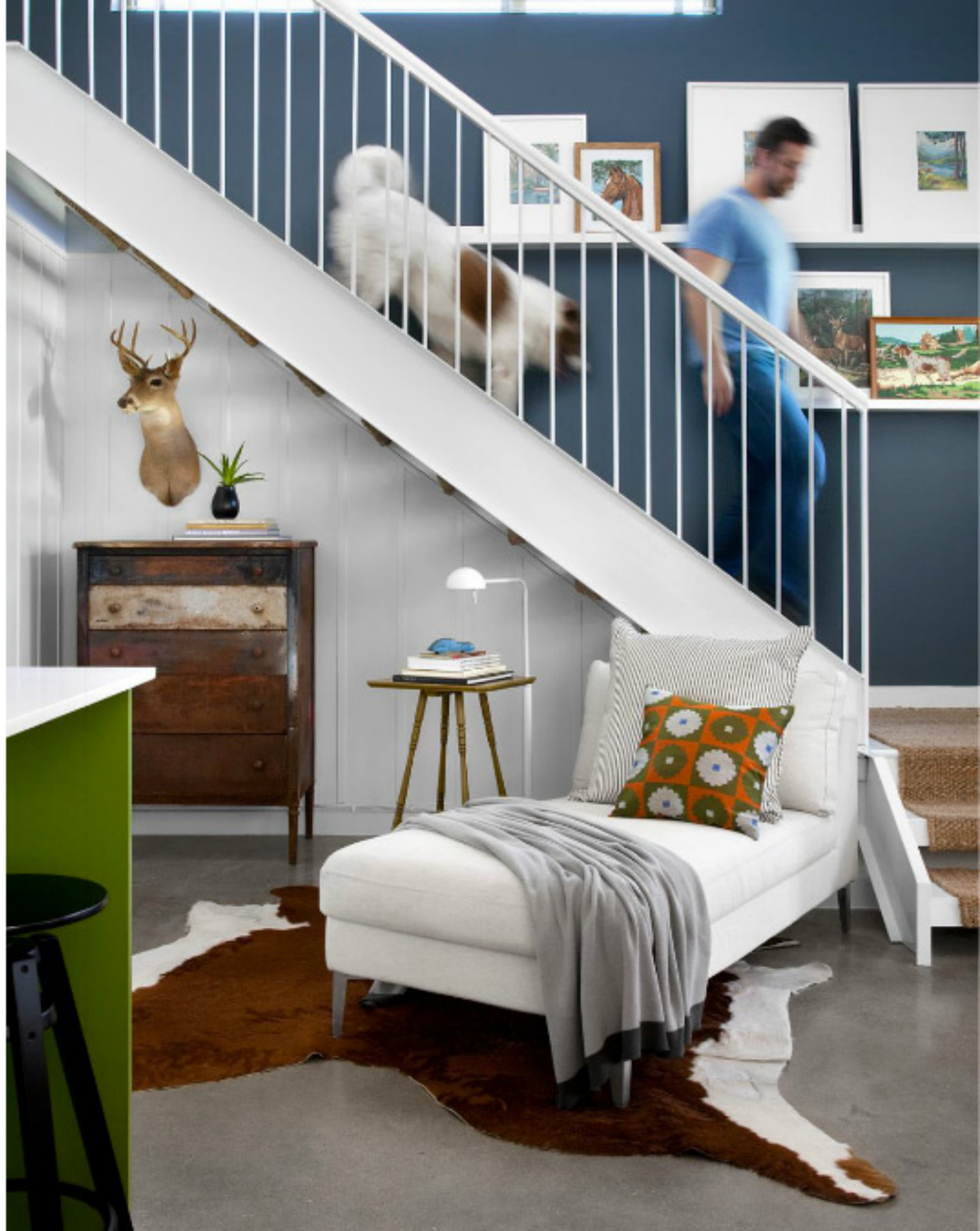
FARMHOUSE

ECLECTIC AND WITTY DÉCOR MEETS
MODERN ARCHITECTURE.

By Jennifer Segelke
Photography by Ryann Ford

Driving up to Roger and Chris Stout-Hazard's ultra-modern home, you expect that the interior will mimic the exterior: modern and minimal. Upon entering the home, it's evident your expectations were wrong. Cold minimalism is nowhere to be found.

The 1,500-square-foot home feels much larger than its footprint would suggest. Twenty-four windows fill the house with light, and the high ceilings give the loft-like structure an airy, breezy quality. The homes of their neighborhood were all designed and fabricated with budget in mind, resulting in a bare-bones aesthetic that could quite easily read one note: modern. Feeling that an all-contemporary look was too "generic," Roger and Chris went in a different direction. "We keep calling it a 'modern farmhouse,'" says Roger, star of A&E's *Sell This House* and *Sell This House: Extreme*. This label is spot-on.







The interior Chris and Roger have created is a delightful smörgåsbord of visual treats. A perfectly curated collection of found objects amid iconic pieces of furniture and mixed with the clean lines of décor workhorses, it's clear that the home is filled with only those things Chris and Roger love. But loving something wasn't the only criteria the couple held to when deciding what could stay and what must go during their home's whirlwind remodel. "We knew we wanted a showpiece," says Roger. But, "we also knew that we would be eating, sleeping, working and entertaining here, so we emphasized durability and versatility." As Chris puts it, "If a house can't support you in your day-

to-day life, can't provide comfort and convenience, then it's a failure of architecture and a failure of interior design." A failure, this house is not.

Deciding the interior of the home needed a makeover, Chris and Roger took on a task few of us could imagine (outside of reality TV): a full redesign in only two months. After 240 episodes of break-neck-speed remodels on *Sell This House*, Roger was comfortable with the pace. Chris, on the other hand, remembers the process being occasionally jarring. "I never doubted that we were going in the right direction, but I have to admit getting a bit nervous when we started going down a few one-way streets."

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These one-way design projects included painting the stairway glossy white, adorning the sheetrock walls with a board-and-batten treatment and cutting doors in half to create the Dutch variety. Adding warmth to the structure, these additions took the home further away from modern minimalism and steered it more toward the farmhouse look, as do the rustic, industrial elements, pops of gingham and plaid, and the smattering of antique taxidermy found throughout.

What Chris and Roger have done so well in their home is establish balance by mixing a variety of styles and price-points, creating rooms that feel comfortable, collected and personal. "When you look at our

large pieces of furniture, much of it is fairly muted and simple," says Chris. "We wanted our art, accessories and textiles to capture more of the attention." Understanding that great style doesn't always require a hefty price tag, DIY projects, repurposed pieces and cleverly refined IKEA furniture are found throughout the house. "Low-end shouldn't be a dirty word, particularly when it is highly functional," says Roger. "You get points for cleverness and effort."

When asked to describe the recipe for their home's witty style, Chris puts it this way: Two parts modernism, two parts relaxed rustic, a splash of cowboy and a twist of weird. Shake vigorously. LOCALE

