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Paris, luxury hotels and glamorous
digs reign in this city home.

BY JANET SOLOMON • FRENCHBLUEANDCO.COM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACQUELINE deMONTRAVEL



LYNN GOLDFINGER-ABRAM AND LEIF ABRAM'S 1939 ART DECO RESIDENCE COULD HAIL FROM ANY OF THE WORLD'S MOST SOPHISTICATED CITIES. THE DESIGN IS PARISIAN IN FEEL, MANHATTAN-ESQUE IN ELEGANCE. HOWEVER, THE HOME IS IN FACT SITUATED IN A CITY KNOWN MORE FOR HIPPIE ROOTS THAN LUXURY LIFESTYLE. DEEP IN THE HEART OF SAN FRANCISCO, VISITING THE ABRAMS' HOME IS LIKE CHECKING INTO A BOUTIQUE HOTEL THAT IS SO COMFORTING, YOU MAY ESCHEW THE ATTRACTIONS THAT AWAIT FOR THE COMFORTS OF EASY LUXURY.



Appointed in hotel details and unique collectibles, Lynn's home feels opulent and special.



A collection of silver serving accessories makes a grand statement.



The living room is sleek and glamorous, with rich texture and bold furniture and accessories.

Throughout the house there are structural details inherent to a well-designed space, including arched doorways and honey colored hardwood floors. Lynn honors these details and accessories accordingly with her furnishings, evident for example in the champagne-colored hide in the living room that adds texture and sophistication. The walls are deep vanilla and perfectly accentuate a striking portrait of an opera singer from Cincinnati, Ohio. The singer is hand-tinted with warm goldenrod tones that befit her jeweled neck. Elsewhere on the walls, leafy beaded Italian and theater sconces add soft lighting throughout. A thick textured cream sofa with black French salon chairs and two chairs from the Fairmont Hotel show high style. A mirrored end table and bar create an inviting and comfortable resting place.

Lynn's inspiration originates from the San Francisco hotels she visited as a child. "I have fond memories of dressing up, shopping and having lunch with my mother in fancy hotels and department stores," she recalls. Her eye catches the small details of such places. What struck her the most were the large chandeliers and shiny hotel serving pieces. Today, Lynn owns an impressive collection of hotel silver from all over the world and capitalizes on her passion with a business selling hotel antiques.

Lynn's style flourishes in the kitchen. Every corner glistens with silver pieces emblazoned with hotel logos, such as The Plaza, Paris Ritz and Le Meurice Hotel. Silver tea and coffee services, creamers, trays and sugar bowls add more sparkle. A 1920s French beaded ballroom chandelier hangs over a small

Lynn's art and collectibles have an Art Deco-era sophistication.

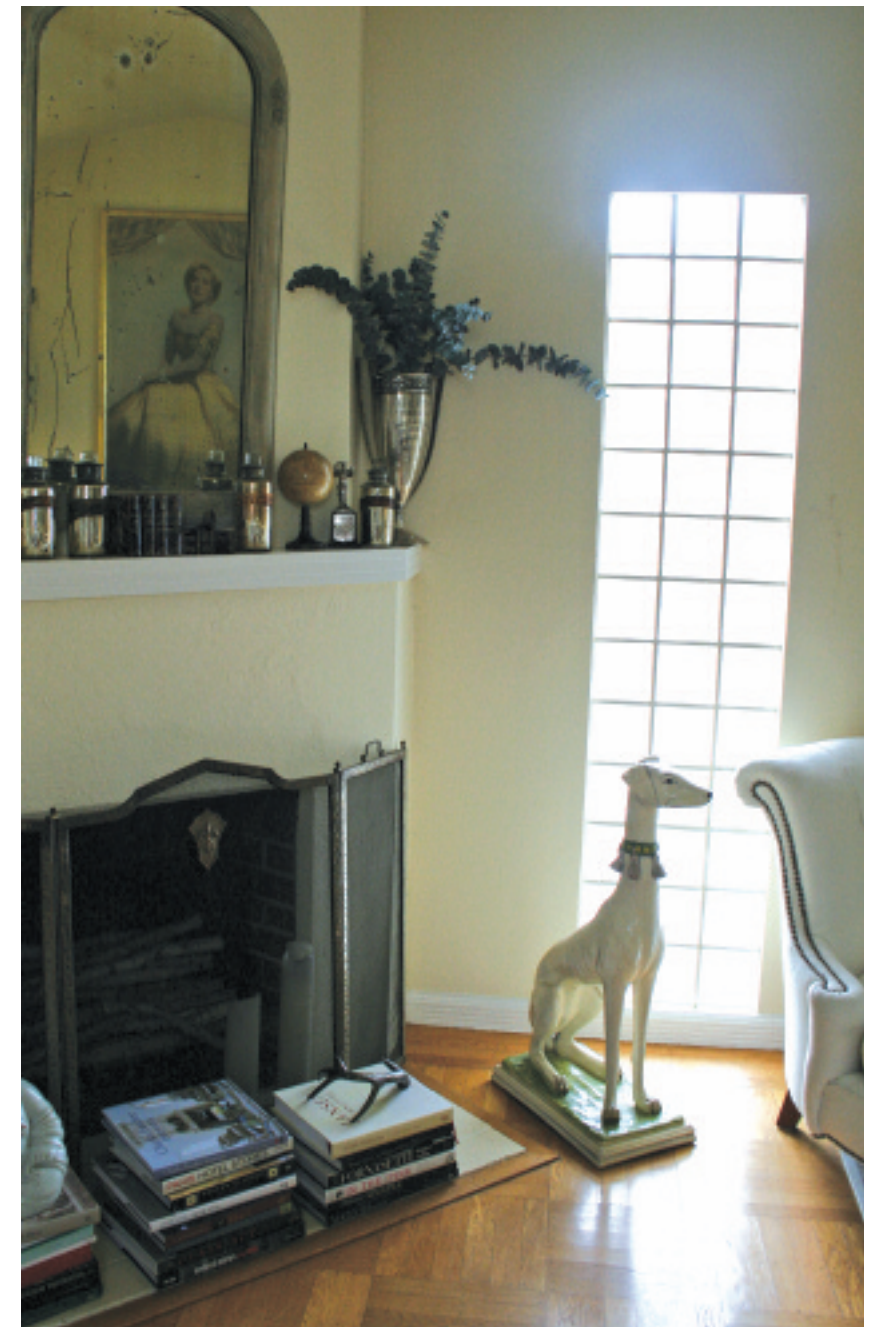


table draped with a crisp white hotel logo table cloth. Lynn's collection of vintage menus is framed on the wall. Two gold-and-white iron chairs with a crest from the crown room in San Francisco are situated on each side. "My home is my sanctuary, I surround myself with dreams of another place in time, of elegance, when white gloves were worn and high tea was served" Lynn says.

"Reservations for two" chimes in your head as you stand in the glow of a large antique beaded crystal chandelier hanging over a painted French-style dining room table with brass studded chairs. Lynn's collection of Fairmont Hotel pottery is used every day, which is a continual reminder of her first night of her honeymoon with Leif. They chose the Fairmont Hotel because seven members of Lynn's family were married there, including her parents, aunt and grandmother. Two large white zinc urns with bust handles, a pair of Lynn's favorite finds, adorn each corner. Milky 1940 art glass decanters sit on a carved gilt sideboard.

The kitchen shelves display some favorite hotel memorabilia, including candles and teas from fine hotels. The drawers are stuffed with an array of vintage hotel flatware. Hanging on the wall a sign that reads "Cocktails in the Plaza Room" adds whimsy.

A calming palette in the bedroom is punched up with modern accessories. Lynn wanted a place to retreat, a soothing juxtaposition of old and new. The bedding is in the hotel style with white and black trimming and monogrammed pillows. A vintage alabaster

Recalling the bliss of their honeymoon, Lynn sets the dining table in Fairmont Hotel settings.

(Opposite) A change from silver, Lynn's dining décor of hotel pottery is simple yet elegant.



INSIDER TRADING

LYNN'S TIPS ON COLLECTING HOTEL SILVER

Mix and match. All of my silver is assorted. I buy pieces that I like, so most of the teapots, creamers and pitchers in my collection are not complete.

■ Display versus use. Most of my collection is strictly decorative and because of age, and corrosion, not for serving purposes. These damaged items can be taken to a silversmith for re-plating. However, for the true collector, it's all about the provenance and design.

■ Often the pieces with the most charm come from unknown hotels and they sell fairly quickly. Raised crests, prominent logos, side marks, cute shapes, monograms and other details make pieces more sought-after. I personally have many pieces from the top hotels, but also unusual pieces from unknown establishments. It's just a matter of what you think is pretty.

■ Get personal. Some collectors strictly want hotels that have personal meaning, others go for design alone, and some just want to use pieces for serving and value the hotel quality and grade. Collect whatever appeals to you. There are no rules for what you like and what strikes a chord.

■ Age doesn't matter. If the piece is well made and by an old manufacturer such as Gorham or Reed & Barton, it's highly collectible. Avoid limiting a collection to certain time periods or geographic location. If you were ever to sell the collection, it would be a lot more interesting to another collector to have pieces from hotels and locales.

For more information on Lynn Goldfinger-Abram, call (415) 305-7846 or visit parishotelboutique.com.



bowl chandelier hangs above the bed. "I wanted something clean and simple," Lynn says.

Her passion for unusual hotel antiques, vintage wares and anything unique is seen and felt throughout. She scours flea markets, estate sales and travels throughout the world in search of such finds. In fact, she has been in the trade for more than 13 years, and her online store affords the opportunity to check into a finer establishment on a more permanent basis.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 89

LYNN'S DECORATING TIPS:

Live in your space before you begin decorating to get a feel of the environment.

Buy one quality item at a time rather than several. It will last a lifetime.

Fill your home with elements of surprise that reflect your personality to avoid a staged setting.

Choose a neutral palette such as white or cream. You can add or change color with accents.

Start a collection of something close to your heart. Display in grouping for a dramatic look. Two or more is a collection.

Go green; add vintage items to your décor. It is a way to recycle and own a one-of-a-kind piece in your home.

Add small touches such as candles and fresh flowers for a soothing atmosphere.

Lighting is an essential element to add ambience. Dimmer switches work great.

Remember, there are no rules—decorate with what you love.

Mirrors, mirrors and more mirrors will open walls and reflect lots of light, especially in small spaces.

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