

In the Moment

IN A HOUSE WITH A HISTORY, RENOVATED ROOMS
HELP A FAMILY STAY FOCUSED ON THE PRESENT.

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OPPOSITE The harvest table in Yasmine and David McGrane's home doubles as studio space for their kids, who paint with abandon on a continuous supply of kraft paper. A milk-bottle caddy from Holland keeps brushes handy. **THIS PHOTO** A salvaged barn door hosts a gallery of exuberant—and always changing—art.

**YASMINE MCGRANE SAVORS LIFE
LIKE IT'S A BOWL OF CAFÉ AU LAIT,
EACH SIP AN AWAKENING.**

Fourteen years ago, she left a dot-com career in search of better balance in her life. For the next decade, she ran a home design store, which she infused with the unhurried spirit of her Montréal childhood. But after her children, Finnegan and Delphine, were born, Yasmine yearned to rebalance yet again. “I wanted to enjoy the simple moments with them,” she says. “A bird singing. The rain falling.”

That quest has flowered into an ideal she calls “white space living,” in which mindfulness brings pleasure both in life and at home. To find that white space for herself, Yasmine closed her brick-and-mortar store and moved it online. She planted an organic garden. And she and her husband, David, renovated their 1893 Victorian home to make it more conducive to family living. They relocated the kitchen to larger quarters to foster cooking with their kids and capture uplifting views of San Francisco Bay. They turned their home’s generous entry hall into a dining room for hosting unstressed gatherings of friends.

In every room, Yasmine enhances the calm surroundings with vintage treasures—many from the French flea markets she loves—chosen for their ability to energize and spark creativity. “If your home is aligned with your values, your life flows with it,” Yasmine says. Her intention is to be present for what each day offers: eating Popsicles on the porch, engaging in painting sessions after school, walking to the farmer’s market or along the edge of the water. “We often overlook those ordinary moments,” Yasmine says. “But it’s those moments that can bring us such peace and joy.” **RESOURCES** Architect—Richard Esteb, Easthope Design; easthopedesign.com. Interior design, furnishings, accessories, and carriage house rental—Yasmine McGrane, Maison Rêve; 415/383-9700; maisonreve.com.

BELOW LEFT Yasmine credits her Swiss-French mother for passing on her penchant for simple pleasures and passion for a good flea market. **BELOW MIDDLE** An old cart corrals farmer’s market picks in the kitchen, inspiring the day’s cooking—and standing ready to roll wherever it’s needed. **BELOW RIGHT** Everyday linen napkins and kitchen gadgets nestle in a vintage rack. The versatile rack also functions as spillover pantry space. **OPPOSITE** Vintage bowls and kitchenware in cheery colors call cooks of all ages to action in the updated kitchen.





THIS PHOTO Home fires burn bright in the custom gas fireplace, where a stainless-steel frame treats flames like a work of art. The surroundings are softer: slipcovered chairs, woolly throws, and pillows for piling on. All encourage relaxed afternoons of reading or family games.



ONE SMART IDEA

Pare down to essentials that both function and delight. Think of rooms as wellsprings of peace—places that reflect your deepest values and that you can tap into for renewal.



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1 A lacy railing, original to the 1893 house, now is a romantic backdrop for Finnegan's chalk work. The door leads directly from the landing to the garden, ensuring frequent visits. **2** Tins planted with herbs nudge Yasmine to brew a cup of tea and unwind. **3** Vacationers who rent the McGranes' carriage house are treated to special quotes tucked in a vintage typewriter. **4** Yasmine snagged this footless tub for \$25. She revived it with brown paint and elevated it on sections of the home's original foundation beams. Glass jars offer sea salts, lavender, or chamomile blossoms for bath-time steeping. **5** An old cabinet in the mudroom keeps footgear handy for impromptu outdoor forays.



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LEFT Yasmine shares Earth-friendly leanings with her kids by furnishing their rooms with vintage pieces—which consume no new resources. Heirloom toys and books top Delphine's antique dresser, evoking the essence of childhood. **BELOW LEFT** Finnegan, an avid reader, corrals his books in an old French cabinet with numbered cubbies. **BELOW RIGHT** Near Finnegan's bed beneath the eaves, an antique French table soccer game entices even tech-loving friends to stretch out and play. **OPPOSITE** A posy-covered quilt brightens Delphine's flea market bed graced by a gauzy canopy. Yasmine dresses beds with durable Belgian linens meant to last a lifetime. She bought the little blue velvet chair years before Delphine was born, hoping someday to give it to a daughter.









{ YASMINE'S 'WHITE SPACE LIVING' }

(1) LET IT GO.

Hold onto family heirlooms or gifts only if you truly love them. Let go of things—projects and relationships included—that don't align with your values. Keep only what energizes you.

(2) DRAW ON THE PAST.

Keep vintage treasures around you that bring out your authentic self, whether it's old rolling pins that remind you to bake or a stack of worn suitcases that inspire you to travel.

(3) ORGANIZE TO SUPPORT YOUR VISION.

Let every room in your house support who you want to be. If you want to garden more, make sure you can easily step outside, clippers in hand, as soon as the sun shines.

(4) LIVE WITH INTENTION.

Create a vision board that reflects your values, with photos that inspire you in your life, your work, and your home. Use it to focus your energy and create an intention for your day.

OPPOSITE Yasmine extended her rejuvenating and easy-living design ideas to the 1910 carriage house behind the family's home. The carriage house is rentable for getaways through Yasmine's business, *Maison Rêve*. **ABOVE** In the main house, a pair of mismatched paneled doors found new life as sliders for a closet. **RIGHT** A portion of a worn mainsail, hung as a headboard in the master bedroom, inspires David to make time for sailing. The pillow at bedside—originally designed for sale in Yasmine's store as a dog bed—is the perfect spot for Yasmine's daily meditations.

