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The designer shares some of her clever tips and tricks when it comes to renovating and decorating
Inside Ellen Van Dusen's Colorful Brooklyn Brownstone

By Hannah Martin

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Known for her use of graphic patterns and eye-popping colors, designer Ellen Van Dusen has finished her most ambitious project yet: an ingenious, upbeat update to her Brooklyn brownstone (she collaborated with her dad's firm, [Van Dusen Architects](#)). “Everything in this house kind of looks like a cartoon,” says Ellen, founder of the fashion-and-furnishings brand Dusen Dusen. “And I love it.” Here she spills some advice for renovating and decorating—from creating her kitchen from scratch to making a DIY hearth. [dusendusen.com](#)

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She tapped designer Sam Stewart, the Queens-based furniture maker, to create custom kitchen stools that meld form and function. Their tops lift up to reveal a nested stool—perfect for entertaining.