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Editorial Style

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## **A Funky Post-War Townhome**

### **A mix of mid-century pieces combines with modern accents**

Next to the Duncan Phyfe style couch are a pile of boxes acting as a coffee table. Just because Jessica Moore moved in only two months ago doesn't mean that her retro sensibilities are still under wraps. Moore, a Graphic Designer for a financial consulting firm by day, pours her excess creativity into school and her home at night. "Financial Consulting isn't one of those sexy design positions," she says, "but I have variety with creating ads and working on the web, and now I'll be directing my second video project this year." Her real outlet is attending the University of Baltimore, enrolled in the MFA program for Integrated Design.

Moving isn't sexy either, but it's another opportunity to let your true colors show. And color is on the (growing) to-do list. Moore chose a small brick town home in the Ridgeleigh neighborhood bordering Towson and Parkville, where she lives with her akita and two cats. The homes in this community were built in the post war boom, and each resident strives to add their personal touch. "What I love is that there is a solid structure in these homes, a great base to start from," Moore says pointing to the hardwood floors and cute wrap around staircase. The previous owners left things neutral so Moore doesn't feel overwhelmed by needing to update every room immediately, despite having the details mapped out.

Downsizing from a larger single family home to a town home came with interesting challenges, and a new concept for furniture usage. “I am trying to simplify, but I am not willing to separate from certain things.” An avid collector of 1940-60’s furniture and house wares, Moore wants these pieces as central elements – and not just for show either. How can these odd items from a variety of decades transform from a traditional use to an updated function? The buffet from the traditional 1940’s dining room set is now a central figure in the living room, serving as the stand for the 42 inch flat screen.

The living room was where she started planning, removing the original red flower border to find an unpainted strip of wall. Choosing the easy way out, she found a 1960’s mod style blue and orange border that, in turn, launched the color palate for the dining room. “As soon as I found the border, I stumbled across these great curtains for the dining room that has a funky orange pattern, and above the chair rail I decided on a deep blue.” Variations on tan in the living room, below the white chair rail and in the hallway help from making the area too busy. That’s where the “matchy-matchy” ends with the blue and orange, and other accents take over. The Duncan Phyfe sofa is covered in celery green, which repeats on the dining room chairs. Lamps from the sixties, which Moore readily calls “ugly” sit atop mahogany end tables.

This, of course, is a work in progress, those blue walls in the dining room – well, first she needs to tear down the old wallpaper. The one completed room in the house is the master bathroom. Moore laughs that “other things had to be done behind the scenes before tackling the living spaces.” Before clothes could go into the closets, the closets needed to be painted, “and I can live without a dining room, but that bathroom needed scrubbing and a fresh coat of paint.” And boy is it fresh. Wanting something lively in the morning, she went with a rich turquoise tone

called Playful Pool. The shower curtain and towels set it off with turquoise and olive green stripes.

Furniture again dictated the color of the small third bedroom where Moore plans on using as a reading room. Royal blue and white 1950's kitchen cabinets are placed along the walls along with bookshelves and love seat. Not just any love seat, though this one is a modern version of a fainting couch, comfortable and inviting. The kitchen theme doesn't stop at the cabinets though; three sparkling chrome antique toasters live amongst the cookbooks on the book shelves. In contrast to the blue and white cabinets, the walls have been painted a rich lime green.

Modern conveniences were a must in one particular room – the kitchen. Luckily enough those updates were taken care of by the previous owner, with new white cabinets, and beige corian countertops; the textured tile background stays in the neutral range again and all Moore had to do was add some flair. The dishes she bought over two years ago in a consignment shop have a small bit of turquoise, contrasting that with brick red, these two colors show up as a small pan on the pot rack, as a colander on the counter, and a small throw rug leading out to the backyard.

A work in progress, Moore can't wait to invite us back in when the walls are painted, the pictures are hung and the dining room table has been cleared of random tools, and in its place, a spread of hors d'oeuvres -- and cocktails in our hands.