



Award-winning San Francisco-based interior designer Ann Lowengart has become the go-to home renovation specialist for the tech crowd.

SOMETHING UNEXPECTED

INTERIOR DESIGN BY ANN LOWENGART INTERIORS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON



Growing up in Sacramento, Ann Lowengart was surrounded by marvelous antiques and striking works of art. “My mother’s taste was incredible. She and my dad took us all over the world visiting galleries and museums. It was a marvelous way to grow up,” Lowengart recalls. “She would constantly change and update our home—especially the artwork. One day she had an eight-foot by eight-foot canvas delivered. It was stunningly contemporary. At first I thought she was crazy, but when it was hung it was gorgeous. She turned to me and said, ‘Annie, it’s always good to have something a little unexpected.’ Those words reverberate through my design today.”

While great design and a love of the design business runs in her family (her aunt is an interior designer as well), Lowengart came to the profession later in life. Upon graduating from Cal, she landed a coveted

Lowengart created a rich, color saturated living room for clients in San Francisco (preceding overleaf) by painting the walls, moldings, bookshelves, and cabinetry a deep royal blue and punching up the contrast with pops of orange. A young family wanted their living spaces to have touches of whimsy in Marin (opposite). Lowengart used a deep taupe from Benjamin Moore on the walls and added the Bubbles Chandelier by Clayton Grey Home, kiwi green ottomans by Jonathan Adler, along with a sofa and bold throw pillow from Room & Board. For the elegant powder room (this page) Lowengart covered the walls in Cole and Son’s ‘Gondola Blue’ wallpaper. To reinforce the Chinoiserie effect, the sink is topped with a bamboo-framed mirror and flanked sconces from Circa Lighting.

job at Proctor & Gamble (P&G). “If you wanted to be in sales and marketing at the time, it was akin to getting a job at Google today. You simply couldn’t say no,” reflects Lowengart. “And I’m so glad that I had that experience. The P&G was made up of high-caliber, smart people at the top of their game. The P&G brands were #1 in every category in which they competed.”

That corporate experience armed Lowengart with project management skills that resonate with her clients. “Our design firm is very data driven,” she says emphatically. “Our clients are driven, intelligent people running companies of their own. It’s critical for us to draw up meticulously detailed floorplans and budgets with line-item prices for everything down to the accessories.” That no nonsense approach to remodeling is how Lowengart started in the design business. She says, “When my husband and I purchased a building in San Francisco, we had a set budget, and I worked with contractors to remodel each unit.” People who saw the





"This living room is massive in scale," notes Lowengart. "Our clients had left it empty and were only utilizing their family room. The kids were riding tricycles in the living room until we brought in furniture." Now this formerly under-utilized space is the heart of the home. The walls were painted in "Dauphin" by Farrow Ball. Two deep comfortable sofas face off between a massive coffee table that offers plenty of space for books and games. A pair of turned chairs and a pair of x-benches (all from Wisteria) add plenty of seating. Lowengart added custom pillows and drapes in fabrics from Schumacher and DuraLee.



The homeowners of this gracious Peninsula estate were after a set of soothing spaces that would fit into their busy lifestyle (which includes their Golden Retriever). “We ultimately selected a palette for the living room (this page and opposite) that matched the dog’s beautiful coat,” smiles Lowengart. Custom sofas surround a Parson’s coffee table by Partridge. Drapes in a soft Ikat pattern echo the Ikat style of Stark’s “Barjello” rug. A painting by Ron Prograsso titled *Study for a Prominent Blue*, mixed media on paper, adds a touch of color. The study features a sectional Manual Canovas sofa covered in Cowtan & Tout’s “Brasilia” fabric with Jane Shelton pillows from Partridge covered in “Mitzi,” “Dogwood,” and “Signature Stripe.”



units hired her to remodel their own home. From there, word of mouth spread, and Lowengart’s business took off.

For 15 years she has been working with discerning clients on everything from turn-of-the-century San Francisco Victorians, to casual Marin single-family homes, to seaside retreats. Lowengart stresses above all else the fundamental combination of function, comfort, and beauty. Her projects reflect a collaborative relationship between interior architecture and furniture, color and texture, client and designer. A significant portion of the firm’s work focuses on the architectural restoration and remodeling of interior spaces. The remodel consulting services include scope definition, architect and contractor selection, timeline management, fixture and finish selection, and decoration.

Lowengart notes, “Our budgets can be 10-15 pages long per room, but that makes

for total transparency—our clients don’t want hidden costs. We also give them an internal time sheet that they can access via a Google doc.” For Lowengart, it all comes down to partnerships and relationship building. “Designing someone’s home is incredibly personal. We ensure that our clients are partners all the way and that they are empowered at every step of the process.”

To that end, there is no signature Ann Lowengart Interiors look. Her projects are reflections of her clients’ tastes and personal style. “Over the years, we’ve done everything from a very fashion forward, edgy family home in Tiburon to very classic mansions in Pacific Heights,” she notes. Their one common theme is that they function beautifully for the clients, their kids, and their animals. “We design homes to be lived in, to make memories in—homes that are sophisticated but have a touch of whimsy—and, of course, a dash of the unexpected.” ♦

