

# Blueprint

DESIGN YOUR LIFE

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2007

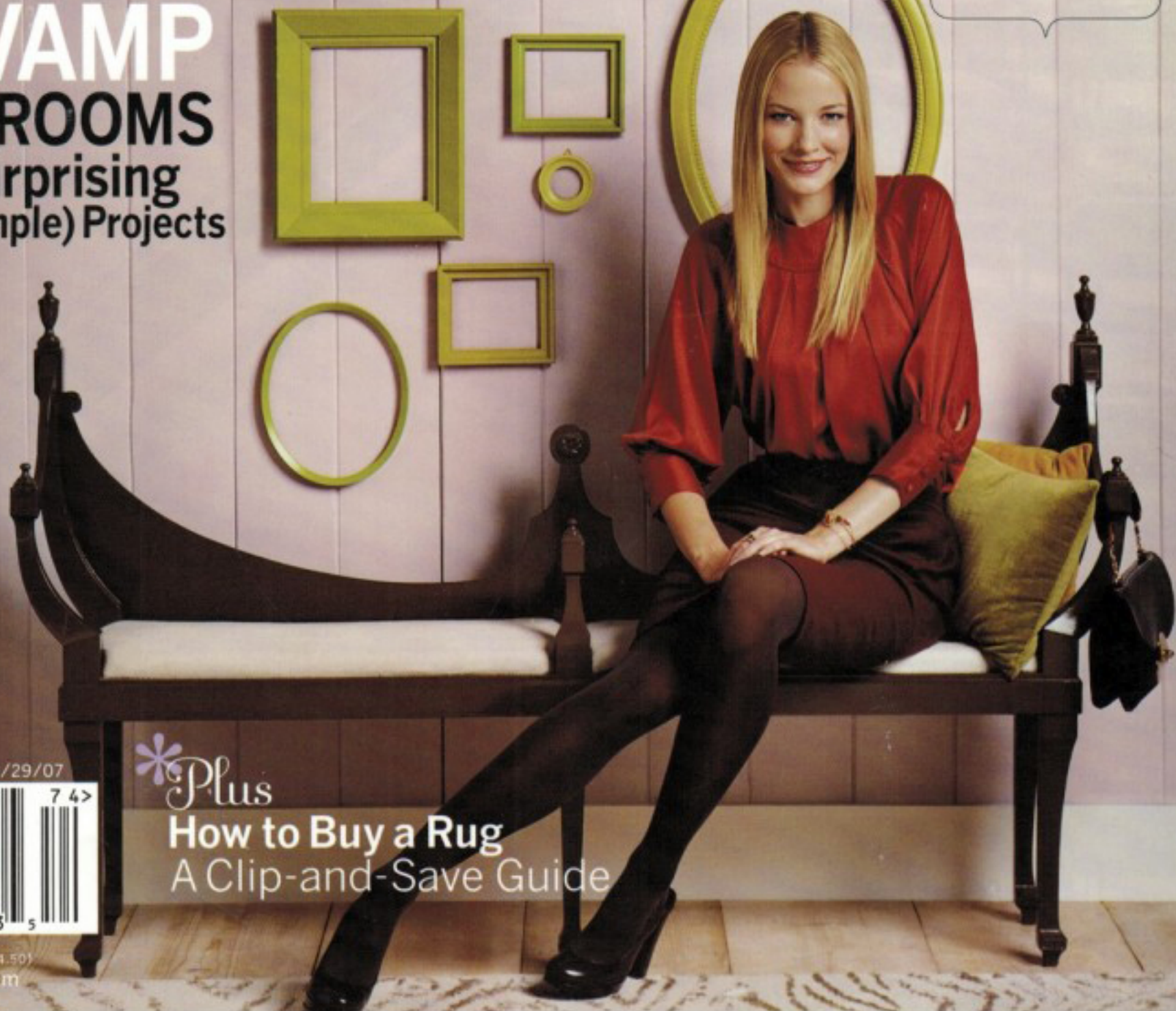
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## Breathing Room

"I've always been interested in natural things," says Lotta, who grew up on a small island off the coast of Sweden. Here earth tones, wood, and textiles she designed combine with touches of industrial steel and splashes of color. To create a chic console (behind the sofa), Ikea kitchen cabinets were given a lift with a wood veneer top that matches the custom shelving above. To maintain privacy but maximize light, Lotta designed a drapery made of one blue wool panel and three white linen sections—all opaque except for the sheer one at eye level.





Rakks custom shelving system, \$670, and custom shelf (on top of cabinets), \$320, both at Shelf Shop, 212-988-9800. Ikea "Akurum" and "Abstrakt" kitchen cabinets, from \$56, [ikea.com](http://ikea.com) for stores. Madeline Weinrib "Jelly Baby" hand-knotted wool 8-by-10-foot carpet, \$6,000, [madelineweinrib.com](http://madelineweinrib.com) for stores

## Pattern Behavior

When designer Lotta Anderson moved with her husband, Nick, from San Francisco to Brooklyn last year (baby August recently made three), she outfitted their apartment and her nearby office using the same motifs that decorate her Lotta Jansdotter textiles and ceramics: sublimely subtle hues, quirky organic shapes, and a casual comfort that gives even up-to-the-moment modern an intimate ease.

TEXT BY Amara Holstein PHOTOGRAPHS BY Douglas Friedman



Lotta's work runs  
throughout her  
home...





## Flexible Benefits

Lotta prefers clean lines and pared-down spaces. "I'm attracted to simple forms," she says, noting that even her floral arrangements, such as the dried seed pods (opposite), are essentially "blobs on sticks." To contain and hide linens when not in use, Nick, an architect, made a dining room table with built-in storage slots. The wall hangings also pull double duty: They're table runners that Lotta designed. She pins them up for decoration until she needs one for company (or wants to watch a movie, which they'll project on the wall). "Tang" wall hangings/runners (similar to shown), \$65 each, [jansdotter.com](http://jansdotter.com)



*This sand-filled doorstop sewn from one of Lotta's textiles—a project in her book, *Simple Sewing* (\$24.95, Chronicle Books)—is an excellent reason to keep an open-door policy.*

## Combination Plate

"I like to mix and match," Lotta says, laughing at the understatement. Here, painterly ceramics by San Francisco artist Sherry Olsen are paired with sleek flatware (a wedding gift) and a place mat and napkin from one of Lotta's previous collections. The trick to combining patterns is to stick to your theme: Handmade shapes and natural colors unify all of these elements.



## Line Studies

The colors and patterns of Lotta's ceramics, fabrics, and stationery are derived from the Swedish landscape. From "the bright gray of the ocean and vibrant green grass to the pale hay and weathered barns," she explains, all of her creations evoke her Scandinavian sensibilities and love of the great outdoors. Box of **postcards**, \$16 for 30 cards; "Pollino" **tissue box covers**, \$32 each; kids' **soft toys**, \$18 each; "Pia" **handbag** (similar to shown), \$65; and "Kamma" **makeup bags**, \$18 each, all at [jansdotter.com](http://jansdotter.com)





... and traces of her home show up at work

## The Shapes of Things to Come

Lotta digs up the seeds for future designs everywhere, from inside her crammed cabinets to out on the streets. She catalogues what she finds in her many sketchbooks (left), and arrays other things on her inspiration clipboards (right and opposite), which she hangs on her walls. The clipboards are carefully composed collections—like the old ticket stub, paint samples, book cover design, and pattern snippet (right)—that Lotta calls “frames for ideas.”



*Lotta's clipboard collages are a great way to gather swatches and decorating ideas, corral kids' artwork, save invitations that you need to respond to, or plan your next vacation.*

## Sew Functional

Creating everything by hand, Lotta decries the use of a computer for anything other than e-mail. “I cut and paste my designs using paper, scissors, and glue, so it’s really messy and organic,” she explains. Various stations help organize her tasks: Her sewing table (right) comprises an Ikea chair that she upholstered with her own material and a metal hospital desk that was a gift from a friend. Another wall hanging serves as décor. Leader Trading Company desk (similar to shown), \$1,100, 212-677-1982. Ikea “Love” swivel chair, \$39, [ikea.com](http://ikea.com) for stores

PRODUCED BY CYBELE GRANDJEAN, PAGE MARCHESE NORMAN, AND REBECCA ROBERTSON







### Social Work

Lotta's office and apartment share a comforting atmosphere—her distinctive blend of the natural and industrial. She made the coral-like overhead light fixture by simply screwing together a bunch of hardware-store socket extenders, which cost less than \$3 each. You can see it in person most Saturdays, when Lotta opens her studio to the public (75C Hoyt Street, Brooklyn, NY; 718-596-2055. Call ahead.)