



Lee's look:  
heritage basics  
plus bright  
modern accents.

## LUCKY LIFE

# All-Americana Girl

When it comes to clothes, Madewell designer **KIN YING LEE** believes in melding time-tested classics with contemporary styling—and she isn't afraid to bring that same philosophy home. BY ELIZABETH KEEFE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAUL RAESIDE / STYLE AND MARKET DIRECTION BY LILI DIALLO

The home shared by Madewell's head designer, Kin Ying Lee, and her husband, J.Crew menswear designer Dan Perna, is what people in those sibling companies would call extremely on-brand. Like Madewell, which was founded in 1937 as a workwear company but has since evolved to offer how-

did-I-ever-live-without-this urban-chic essentials, Lee's home, a newly renovated loft in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, is filled with storied personal touches and well-built furnishings that are the essence of time-tested, all-American design. Though the home's major pieces have a highly functional, industrial aspect,

they have been curated and tamed to create a space that feels inviting and personal. "There's a direct correlation," Lee says, between her design work and the loft's aesthetic. "There is such an honesty in everything we pick. It's very authentic and nothing is too fussy."

*continued...*

### SHOP THE ROOM WORK

**TABLE:** Strut large lacquered wood, \$1,199, bludot.com. **RUG:** 9' x 12' woven cotton, \$1,150, serenaandlily.com **TEXT TO BUY: LEE1 AT 58259** **TAPE DISPENSER:** Anything stainless steel and rubber, \$39, thefutureperfect.com. **ON KIN YING TOP:** "Pico," \$90, madewell.com. **BOYFRIEND JEANS:** Distressed denim, \$98, madewell.com. **PUMPS:** Suede, \$178, madewell.com. Her own jewelry and belt



Shelves store family photos, antique tailoring memorabilia and Japanese fashion magazines.

**SHOP THE ROOM** **OVERSIZE GLASS VASE:** 20" Palmetto, \$40, crateandbarrel.com **TEXT TO BUY:** LEE2 AT 58259 **FEDORA:** Straw, \$86, Tommy Bahama, villagehatshop.com. **VINTAGE FOOTBALL:** antiquesportsshop.com for similar styles. **GLASS DOME:** Bell jar, \$20, lampsplus.com



A mini collection of vintage brass tools.

**SHOP THE ROOM** **CANISTERS:**

Kaico Maru enamel, \$52 each, creaturesofcomfort.us **TEXT TO BUY:** LEE3 AT 58259 **POSTCARD WALLET:** Postalco leather, \$207, creaturesofcomfort.us **TEXT TO BUY:** LEE4 AT 58259 **PINK NOTEBOOK:** Hugo Guinness drawings, \$40, John Derian, 212-677-3917

**ORGANIC INGREDIENTS**

"I love very simple fabrics and materials: wood, metal, cotton," says Lee. "They're very, very down to earth." Against the loft's strong, boxy architecture, natural materials and textures add warmth and transform what could be a stark space into something cozy—perfect for Lee and Perna's two young children. Rugged shelving (made from Ikea countertops sawed in half lengthwise and mounted on hardware store brackets), cotton rugs (some nubby wovens, some patchworks of vintage textiles), a slightly weathered collectible sideboard and a wingback chair in battered leather make the space feel grounded and lived-in.

**CLEAN LINES AND PEACEFUL HUES**

Lee is unrelenting when it comes to the palette of whites, grays and browns that dominates her home. "It's not that I'm afraid of color," she says. "I'm just attracted to neutrals. They have this calming element that I want to live with." Pops of color (a framed Union Jack handkerchief, a striped rug) are kept to a minimum, and the overall restful feel is supported by furnishings that are uniformly spare. An angular Hans Wegner chair in the living room, sleekly low-tech suspended cage lights, a steel filing cabinet and classic café chairs—all share a no-nonsense minimalism that unites the space and showcases Lee's love of straightforwardness. "Your home doesn't have to be showy," Lee says. "You just have to love it." ■



Bright orange masking tape transforms an inexpensive frame.

**SHOP THE ROOM CHAIR:** Tolix "Marais A," \$250, dwr.com **TEXT TO BUY:** LEE5 AT 58259 **DIAMOND DENIM RUG:** 8.5' x 11', \$514, dashandalbert.com **TEXT TO BUY:** LEE6 AT 58259 **CONVEX MIRRORS:** Lacquered, \$29 to \$49 each, westelm.com. **TABLE LAMP:** "Kulla," \$50, ikea.com **TEXT TO BUY:** LEE7 AT 58259 **SCREEN PRINT:** 18' x 24' "Brooklyn," \$22, orkposters.com. **DARK BROWN FRAME:** "Fjällsta," \$35, ikea.com for stores. **WHITE FRAME:** "Ribba," \$20, ikea.com for stores

\*YOUR CARRIER'S STANDARD MESSAGING RATES APPLY TO ALL SMS CORRESPONDENCE. OTHER CHARGES MAY APPLY. AVAILABLE ON PARTICIPATING CARRIERS AND IN THE U.S. ONLY. FOR COMPLETE MOBILE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, PLEASE GO TO LUCKYMAG.COM/GO/TEXT.



**SHOP THE ROOM TAXIDERMY:** theevolutionstore.com for similar styles. **WOVEN RUG:** 9' x 12' Camden Stripe wool blend, \$699, westelm.com. **ANTLER CANDLESTICKS:** Roost bronze, \$70, velocityartanddesign.com. **CUSHIONS:** Donna Wilson "Bora Da," \$118 each, thefutureperfect.com **TEXT TO BUY:** LEE8 AT 58259 **METAL CABINETS:** moonriverchattel.com for similar styles



**SHOP THE ROOM CHAIR:** Leather, \$1,995, restorationhardware.com. **SUBWAY POSTER:** ebay.com for similar styles. **FLOOR LAMP:** Polished nickel finish base, \$169, westelm.com. **ON KIN YING CARDIGAN:** Cashmere, \$295, White + Warren, whiteandwarren.com. **TOP:** Dotted, \$42, madewell.com. **JEANS:** Denim, \$110, madewell.com. **NECKLACE:** Gold tone, \$35, madewell.com. **CUFF:** Gold tone, \$24, madewell.com. **FLATS:** Python, \$108, madewell.com. Her own bracelets and watch



