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## Matchmaker

Opposites attract in Brenda Scherping's home, where traditional and modern furniture go hand in hand.

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**B**renda Scherping's Minneapolis bungalow is a study in contradictions. As the owner of a home furnishings business, Brenda is not afraid to play matchmaker, pairing furniture and accessories from different decades.

She had good bones to work with: The 1930s cottage she shares with her husband, Fritz Westphal, and their 1-year-old daughter, Julia, pours on the charm. Warm oak floors, plentiful windows, and arched doorways that frame views into adjoining rooms provide the ideal backdrop for her mix.

Her taste spans genres from curvaceous side chairs to streamlined tables and abstract paintings. With an eclectic mix of furniture, which Brenda and Fritz have bought over time, the look could have missed the mark, but Brenda relies on a few basic decorating tenets to pull it all together.

First, she chose a muted color palette that contrasts colors, such as robin's egg blue in the living room and rich chocolate in the dining room. White-painted moldings and trim hold the hues together from room to room. "I'm drawn to soft colors that change with the light," she says.

#### **FURNITURE**

**POLISH** Neutral upholstery and glossy white tables can work together even though the pieces have different pedigrees. In Brenda Scherping's living room, a Saarinen side table from 1956 sits between a French side chair and a creamy linen lounge chair.

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**GO NATURAL** Instead of piling on pattern, introduce textures for interest. Here, curly willow branches in a vase, woven baskets, and a wicker stool provide an organic contrast to the smooth forms and white surfaces.





Next, Brenda dressed many of her windows with simple shades and creamy silk draperies, which she prefers to bold patterns that might overwhelm her small-scale rooms. Neutral upholstery also helps unite her furniture.

As a final touch, she adds textural accents of coral, shiny silver vases, and branches.

"Every year or so I'll change something out, but the basics remain the same," says Brenda. "I like a clean and classic look."

**SMART KITCHEN** White cabinets with glass-front uppers, *left*, update a once-dark kitchen. Brenda decided to forgo hardware and keep the windows bare for a modern take on a traditional look.

**DEFINING MOMENTS** Strong silhouettes, such as the Chippendale-style corner cabinets, *below*, become a focal point when paired with subdued shapes, as in the chandelier and vases.



### MIXING TRADITIONAL AND MODERN

- Upholstered wing chair + White-lacquer tables
- Sisal or jute rugs + Dark wood floors
- Oil paintings + No frames
- Matelassé coverlet + Patterned pillows in bold colors
- Built-in cabinets + Bright paint color on interior shelves