



about a girl

A sweet Southern belle happily gets her hands dirty (think dumpster diving and roadside freebies) to decorate her gracious and elegant South Carolina home.

photos and styling by Heather Bullard ■ words by Christine Hofmann-Bourque



Best Friends Homeowner Hollie Wood and her spaniel, Jake, hang out in the living room of the 1948 house Hollie furnished almost entirely with vintage items. **Hello, Sunshine** The mustard chair, opposite, was \$10 at a South Carolina flea market; a footstool hand-embroidered with a sunflower was just \$5.

Hollie Wood—a vintage dealer and bargain-finder extraordinaire—has an unusual confession for a hip, single 28-year-old: “A van. That’s my dream car!”

Not that the lack of cargo space in her tiny Honda Civic has slowed Hollie from hauling oodles of flea market chandeliers, yard-sale love seats, and consignment-shop china back to the charming 1940s house she bought in Charleston, South Carolina. “There’s always a way with me,” Hollie says in a sweet Southern drawl.

Most of Hollie’s finds are diamonds in the rough, and her three-bedroom house was no exception: It featured hot pink walls, blue shag carpeting, and teddy bear wallpaper. She kicked off its style makeover by painting all the walls white, ripping up carpets to expose wood floors with lovely patina, then filling the rooms with colorful flea market finds.

Hollie’s elegant style appears effortless. But she has more than a few tricks up her vintage shirtsleeves for making other people’s discarded treasures look cohesive, not cluttered. Take the breakfast area, where the walls hold dozens of old framed pictures of flowers in various mediums. Or a guest bedroom, where at least 20 cloisonné knickknacks—some bought for a quarter—congregate. “I make these little themes throughout the house,” says Hollie, who groups like objects together for drama.

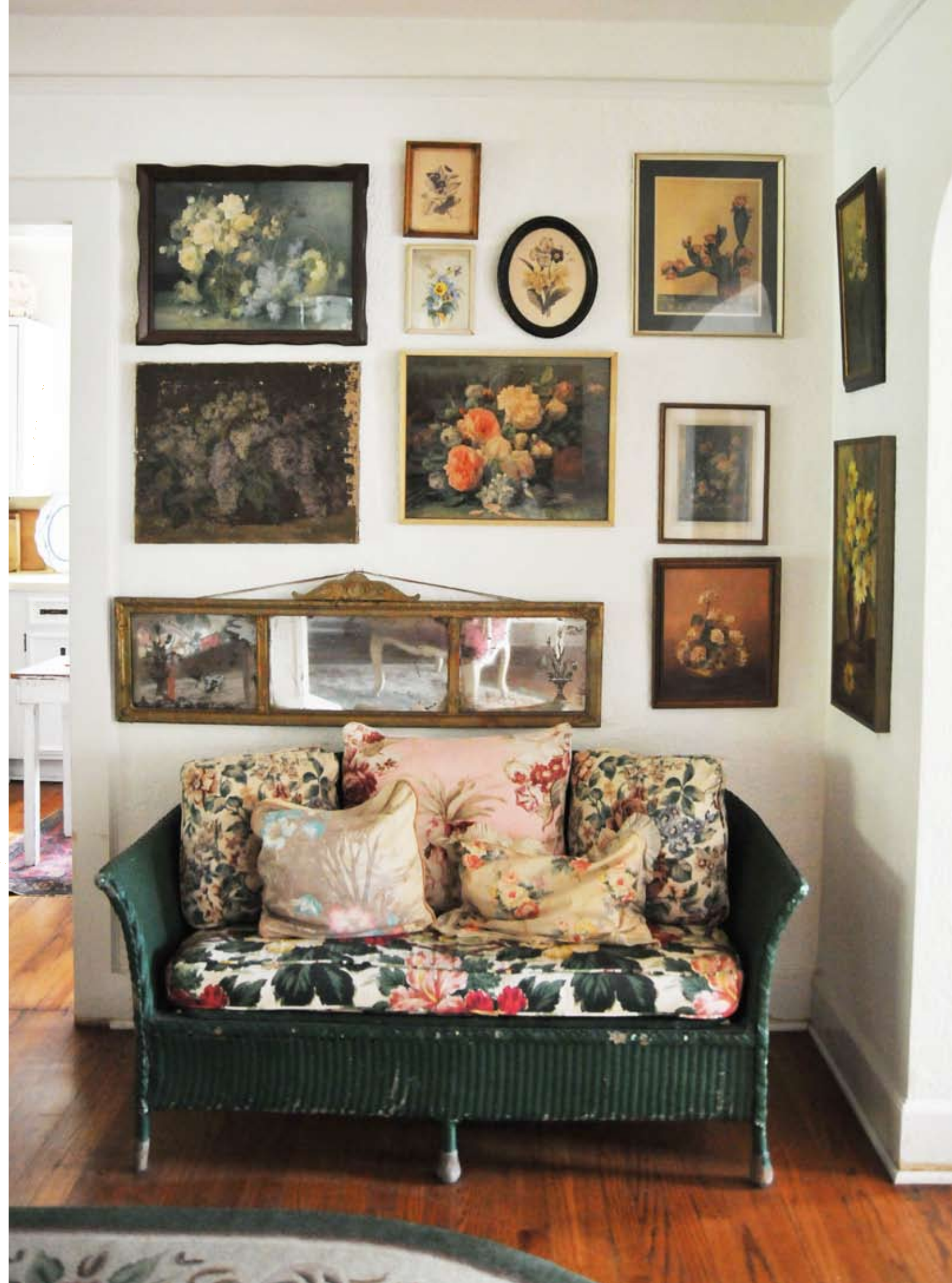
Hollie gets great deals in part because she’s willing to work for them. (“I try to live below my means,” she says.) During a recent trip to England, she spotted an embroidered pillow in a trash bin; Hollie grabbed it and carted it home across the ocean. In her three bedrooms, she dresses the beds in vintage linens other buyers passed by. “I do not fear stains,” says Hollie. She cleans fabrics the best she can, and if a blemish doesn’t come out, she simply finds another use for the item. Case in point: An old sheet she couldn’t rescue is used to protect a couch from her dog, instead of being used on a bed.

It helps that Hollie embraces quirkiness in her decorating. On the living room windows, for instance, Hollie hung three vintage silk chintz panels. Never mind the fact that the room has four windows; the curtains were too good of a deal to pass by, so Hollie simply left one window bare. “I push the boundaries,” she says.

Still, some visitors to her delightful home are skeptical of her knack for decorating on a shoestring. “I just stopped telling people how much I pay for things because they don’t believe me or think something’s wrong,” says Hollie.

For the record, Hollie Ann Wood is this stylist’s real name. Hollie swears her mother didn’t think about how the first and last names would sound together until she read them on the birth certificate. “It’s been a lighthearted joke,” says Hollie. And it’s fitting that Hollie’s name—like her style—has character, charm, and a good story.

Flavorful Kitchen For a low-cost kitchen redo, *left*, Hollie simply painted old stained-wood cabinets white. She kept the original hardware and the retro-fabulous 1960s buttercream-color Formica countertops, which are in excellent shape. **Take a Seat** In the parlor-turned-breakfast room, *opposite*, an old green wicker love seat wears its original paint; Hollie recovered the cushion in “old, real-deal bark cloth.”





Formal Address The living room is filled with stately pieces such as the rose-patterned chairs, which Hollie spotted in pristine condition at a yard sale. "What's cool about a lot of these more formal pieces is that back then people had their 'trophy room' and they didn't use it, so these things have barely been used," she says. The crystal chandelier was picked up off a dusty floor at a Habitat for Humanity ReStore. (HABITAT.ORG/RESTORES).

“I get good deals on everything—everything!
Fifty cents. A dollar. *Five dollars is high for me!*”

—Homeowner Hollie Wood



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1 Cloisonné Crush Whether it's made into a vase, salt-and-pepper shakers, or a tray, cloisonné enamel is always on Hollie's buying radar. She buys hers at garage sales and flea markets, where she pays as little as 25 cents. **2 It's Good to Be Blue** The turquoise color and gilt edge on these brandy glasses adds a festive touch. **3 Gilt Trips Are Good** In Hollie's bedroom, a trinket box, plate, and old dresser wear bits of gold. "I like hints of gilding and antique silver to add luster," she says. **4 Light Up the Night** In the breakfast room, Hollie fearlessly tops a \$2 alabaster lamp with a (free!) red lampshade painted with feathers. **5 Living on a Prayer** An old plant stand corrals religious items such as crosses and statues of saints. "I love that spot," says Hollie. "That's an area to pray, think, unwind." **6 This Bud's for You** Collecting bud vases is a family affair: Hollie and her mother both covet the silver beauties. **7 Something's Fishy** A crawfish dish serves up style in the living room.



Tantalizing Turquoise "This table was the shining star piece from a road trip to Indiana," says Hollie, who has a soft spot for anything turquoise. **Cowboy Up** Hollie pairs a vintage eyelet skirt and old turquoise bracelets, *opposite*, with Lucchese cowboy boots. The new turquoise kicks are one of the very few exceptions to Hollie's "buy used" rule.

Frugal Fashion

DRESS TIP TO TOE IN VINTAGE WITH HOLLIE'S SHOPPING TIPS

Look at Labels It may give you clues whether a clothing item is well-preserved and from the 1950s, or just well-worn and from the 2000s.

Pick Favorites To avoid being overwhelmed by all the options, Hollie shops for targeted items. "I'm in love with old vintage men's flannel shirts," she says. "I like to use one for a robe or it's a nice layer to go outside and work in the yard. It's my most favorite piece I like to drink my coffee in."

Ignore Sizes Because clothing sizes have changed dramatically over the years, you may fit into vintage sizes 4, 6, 8, and 10. "I don't even bother looking at size," says Hollie. "Just try it on."

Get Fancy "I can't bring myself to shop for new dresses," says budget-conscious Hollie, who keeps her closet stocked with several classic vintage pieces she accessorizes with old bangles and necklaces. "I also have an obsession with vintage jewelry."





“When I was little, my family would go to the flea market and everyone would find that one special treasure, and that was the memory.”

—Homeowner Hollie Wood



Hollie's Chandelier
RESCUE
 To clean old chandeliers, remove crystals. Soak crystals in soapy water, then scrub with a toothbrush. Rinse in a bath of half water, half vinegar. "It makes for a super-shiny streak-free finish."

Top Drawer Style This mid-1800s French turquoise-and-cream dresser, *above*, with original paint showed up at a garage sale, where Hollie nabbed it for \$125. How does she know so many details about the piece? Hollie always peppers sellers with questions to dig up the background story. **A Rose is a Rose** A glass flower vase, *top right*, brightens a guest bedroom. **Sweet Dreams** In the master bedroom, *middle right*, vintage linens are layered on the antique bed. **Significant Others** The grey dresser, *bottom right*, has a special place in Hollie's heart. "This was my first piece that I purchased on my own," she says. **Be Our Guest** "When my real estate agent was showing me this house, she said, 'The first thing you'll want to do is take down the wallpaper,'" says Hollie of the vintage yellow-and-white lattice wallcovering in a guest room, *opposite*. "I gasped! That's what I love!" A coral-color wicker vanity seat provides extra storage.

Get more Hollie at HOLLIEWOODSTYLE.COM.