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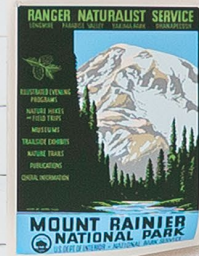
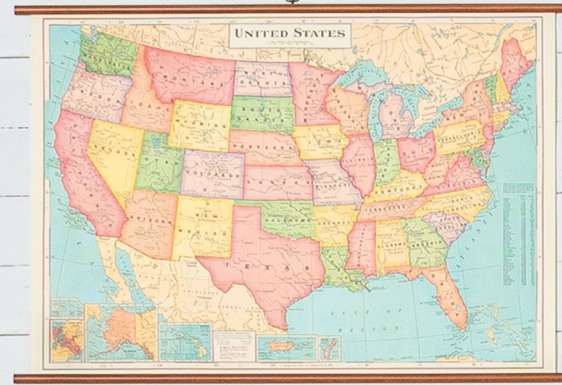
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MODERN AMERICANA

MAX HUMPHREY
CHASE REYNOLDS EWALD



MODERN AMERICANA



MAX HUMPHREY
WITH CHASE REYNOLDS EWALD



PHOTOS BY
CHRISTOPHER DIBBLE



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**SITTING,
SNOOZING,
STANDING
AROUND**



PAINTED FURNITURE

PAINTED FURNITURE is a category I can't say no to. It's a great way to get a pop of color in a space. There's nothing fancy about these pieces of furniture, and there's no stopping you from repainting a chair, desk, cabinet or outdoor furniture and giving it new life. You can paint vintage wood or metal outdoor furniture to modernize it. If the color doesn't suit, you can do it again. ★ When you find the old stuff, it's unmistakable. For me, the chippier the better. Gapping, cracks and visible nails all lend character. I like being able to see layers of paint. I might find a painted chair or desk or table and it's got the one color you can see but it's not just brown beneath; it might have been painted red then black then blue then green. You can see the layers and the lives this piece has had. All these pieces have a history that you'll never know, but you make up your own story for them.

I bought the cast-iron tub on Craigslist and it was no fun to transport. A vintage Oregon flag serves as a makeshift shower curtain.



BATHTUBS

THERE'S NOTHING QUICK OR PRACTICAL ABOUT A BATHTUB, and that's why they're so appealing. You have to draw a bath, wait for it to fill up, then let some water out when you realize it's too hot. ★ There's something elemental about bathtubs and hot water. Every culture and every religion has a bathing ritual.





I added a mattress-style cushion to the floating concrete fireplace hearth in this mountain home as a way to soften some of the heavier materials.

WINDOW SEATS



WHO DOESN'T LOVE A WINDOW SEAT?

Window seats need to be comfy, and it's nice if they're long enough to take a nap on. They're a good vessel for throw pillows and a place to add texture, color and pattern. Cats love them. In fact, my cat gets way more use out of mine than I do.

BUTTERFLY CHAIRS

BUTTERFLY CHAIRS ARE CASUAL. They force you to relax. They're great inside as sculptural accents in a modern room but also comfortable on the porch. You can change the cover to instantly transform a room. They're good as reading chairs and they're great in a kid's room. For a little kid, they're almost like hammocks. ★ I like that you have to climb into a butterfly chair. It's not a passive experience; you have to be an active participant in sitting in this chair. And once you're in it, you're in it. You need a friend to get you out—or you just fall out.



BUNK BEDS

"I CALL TOP BUNK!"

People love bunk beds, and when I work on new builds or renovations everyone wants them. But they're a feat of spatial engineering. I do as much as I can on paper, but I was at this house with blue painter's tape taping off a whole 3D plan, making sure people would have enough room on the top and still not hit their heads on the bottom. The niche has to be in the right spot; the junction boxes for the sconces have to be determined really early on. There's no wiggle room.



VINTAGE

RUGS

This is a 1920s house that I decorated for a young family expecting their first baby. The clients had modern taste but bought this traditional home with some cool original details, like pocket doors, leaded windows and original built-ins. It's sometimes fun to paint pass-through rooms a darker color, like the dining room in the background. The rug is antique Moroccan from Kat and Maoche. The more baby spit-up it gets on it, the better it looks.



THE MORE BEAT-UP, THE BETTER THE RUG. IF IT'S LASTED THIS LONG, IT'S GOING TO LAST ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS.



The rug dealer tried to talk me out of buying this one because it was damaged, but the truth is, I would have paid extra for it.
OPPOSITE: Stained glass windows + rockin' rug = 😊





This wallpaper was inspired by the California poppy. It's bold, large scale and not precious. The fact that it's unexpected makes it modern. It was designed by my friend Alexis Hartman of Lake August. She does original paintings and translates them into wallpapers, so they have an artisan aspect. The paper is hand printed in the USA by a local printing mill. People see the dark background and think it's going to make the room dark. In this case it works, because it was the perfect amount, above a high wainscot, with natural light flowing in from the side.

RED, WHITE & BLUE



RED, WHITE AND BLUE can be a red chair, a blue sofa and a white wall, or a red, white and blue rug. Obviously, we associate red, white and blue with the American flag, but, history aside, they're simply nice colors that look good together. ★ You can go super primary or more muted. So, red, white and blue can mean navy, maroon and cream or it can be turquoise, ruby and pearl. As an Americana maximalist, I use red, white and blue the way someone else uses taupe and beige.

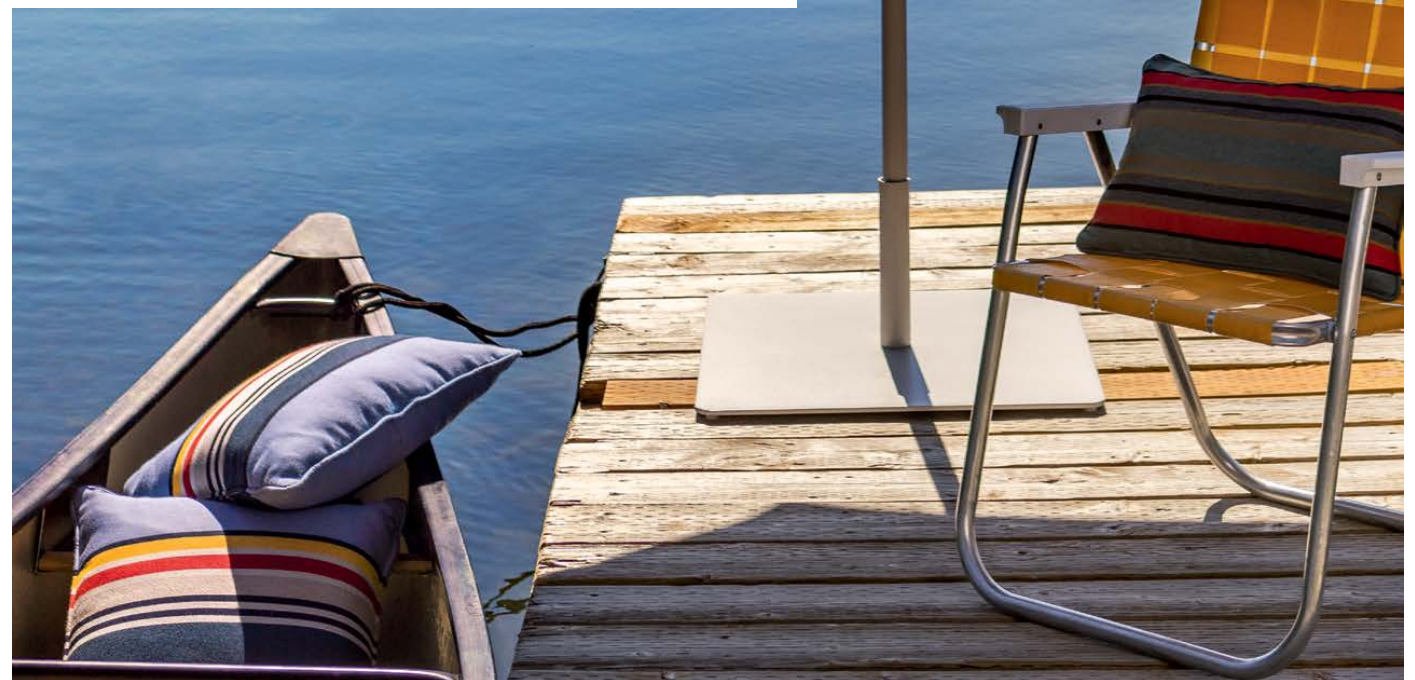
The bench seat upholstery is a Sunbrella outdoor fabric, so it's kid and pet friendly.

SUMMER

T R I P S



ZEBRAS WEAR THEM, but so did nineteenth-century criminals. Stripes can relate to the beach or the lake or the cabin. ★ Big stripes, little stripes, ticking stripes, stripes on stripes—the more the merrier.





COLLECTIONS

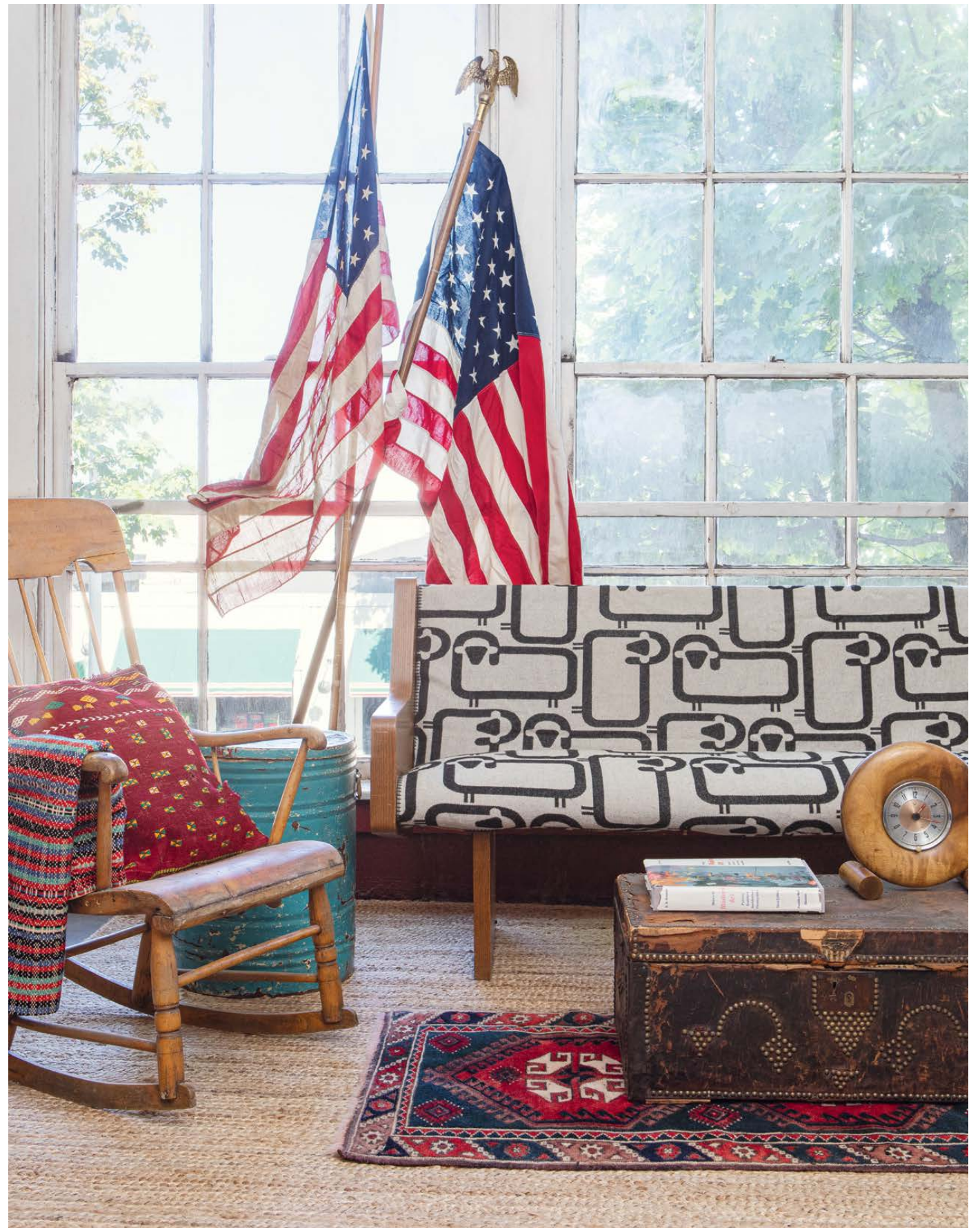
THREE OF ANYTHING IS A COLLECTION.



QUILTS

THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR YOUR GRANDPARENTS' GUEST ROOM ANYMORE.





BANDANAS

I was working with a client who said it would be cool to have a bandana print for a room we wanted to wallpaper. When I went to the wallpaper store, though, I found nothing like that existed, so I collaborated with a graphic designer to take bits and pieces from some of my own vintage bandanas then found a Chicago-based printer to manufacture it. It took a year, so we had to finish the client's project using something else and I installed it in my home office.



COTS & TENTS



I love traditional tents made out of army duck canvas. This one is from Denver Tent, which has been making tents in Colorado since 1890. The cot cushions are all covered in fabrics inspired by Pendleton's national park blanket stripes.