

AT HOME

AN OPRAH
MAGAZINE

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THE GREAT NATE
ON FINDING
YOUR STYLE

LOVE NESTS
DECORATING
FOR TWO

SMALL SPACES
MAKE EVERY
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SMART ENTERTAINING
THE AFTER-PARTY
PARTY

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FIRST LOOK AT OPRAH'S NEW GUEST HOUSE



WINTER 2005 Display until Feb 6
\$3.95 US/\$5.50 CANADA/FOREIGN



L.C. Armstrong's magnificent *Sea of Bliss*, a 12-foot-long surrealistic landscape with psychedelic flowers, anchors a wall in the spacious living room. Roger Crowley designed the sofa, upholstered in a Kirk Brummel cotton satin in deep lavender, one of Laurel's favorite colors. Instead of a single coffee table, Viñoly placed end to end a pair of Agostini-designed tables that she found in Paris.



“I always bought art instead of curtains,” says Laurel, who, with her new husband, Ted, picked up the pace of her art shopping.

Avenue (in 1985, she received the New York Women in Communications' Matrix Award for outstanding contributions to the field of advertising).

If their tastes in art were surprising, no less so were their attitudes toward love and courtship. The couple met on a blind date set up by an old friend of Ted's. Ted, formerly a financier, was widowed, and Laurel, long divorced, was “certainly not looking for a mate.” All she wanted was someone she could dance and travel with. The morning after that first date, she sounded more like a Nora Ephron-esque thirtysomething single than a silver-haired grandma when she told her granddaughter, “It's going nowhere. He says he's cheap and hates New York City.”

Ted, who was living on the North Shore of Long Island, New York, admits that he was “in one of my negative moods.” Laurel's analysis is that he was “scared to death.” Nonetheless, more dates and conversations followed. They discovered that not only do they have the same birthday—December 8—but they also went to the same high school in Great Neck, New York. (She's a year younger but was in the class ahead of his). Next came “a successful test run,” traveling to Europe, to a ball and a wedding, and then living together in her Upper East Side apartment. To Laurel's dismay, “He took up a lot of space and used every surface.” She sent him home to his house occasionally, but “when I missed talking to him every minute, I realized it was going somewhere.” They were married in 2002, at the Century Club in New York City, surrounded by their families. (They each have three children; she has six grandchildren, and he has two.)

It took a while to agree to find a new place in the city, but when they came across a Park Avenue apartment with a huge fireplace and a perfect layout, they couldn't resist. He sold his suburban house; she sold her apartment. Now all they needed was a decorator. When Laurel visited a friend's new home, she fell in love with its combination of luxury and simplicity, then whipped out her cell phone and hired the decorator—Diana Viñoly—on the spot.

The 22-by-24-foot living room was both gloriously spacious and a challenge. Viñoly came up with the idea of “doing everything on its borders”—grouping the seating areas along the walls and in the corners and leaving the center of the room completely open. She also commissioned her husband, the internationally famous architect Rafael Viñoly, to design a smart, modern fireplace to replace “the boring one” that was there. For the room's springboard, she chose an extraordinary mansion-sized antique Chinese Art Deco carpet in Laurel's favorite colors, lavender and purple.

Meanwhile, Laurel and Ted eyed the vast new wall spaces and picked up the pace of their art shopping. Helping them was Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, of