

# H GENTRY Home

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Library designed by Martha Angus

# POP PERFECTION

*Who is the designer darling amongst the Google and Facebook crowd right now? Her name is Martha Angus and she's the hottest thing going.*

TEXT BY STEFANIE LINGLE BEASLEY

**M**artha Angus is fun. Yes, she's a serious artist and has some serious street cred, including studying painting at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris and Sotheby's Restoration in New York, working for Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani, and the Lauder family, as well as presenting spaces that have earned rave reviews at the Kips Bay Show House in Manhattan for years. But the bottom line is she's fun. Her whimsical designs reflect her delightfully charming, slightly irreverent, personality.

Take pin stripes for example—boring, right? Not when Angus gets her hands on them. Instead of showcasing them in their typical vertical milieu, she upends them and runs them horizontally across a formerly blah bedroom wall. Add some Roy Lichtenstein prints, an antique military jacket on a mannequin, and some ➔



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groovy Bauhaus-style furnishings, and you’ve got Angus’ recipe for a dynamic space.

Angus had a peripatetic childhood. “We moved 35 times,” she sighs. “I’m from everywhere.” What is clear, is that such a childhood opened her eyes to the world around her and she ate it up—the entire visual feast. Her university years took her from Paris to Carnegie Mellon, where she studied industrial design. “If you think about the formal art training I had in Paris and add industrial design, it equals interior design,” she notes.

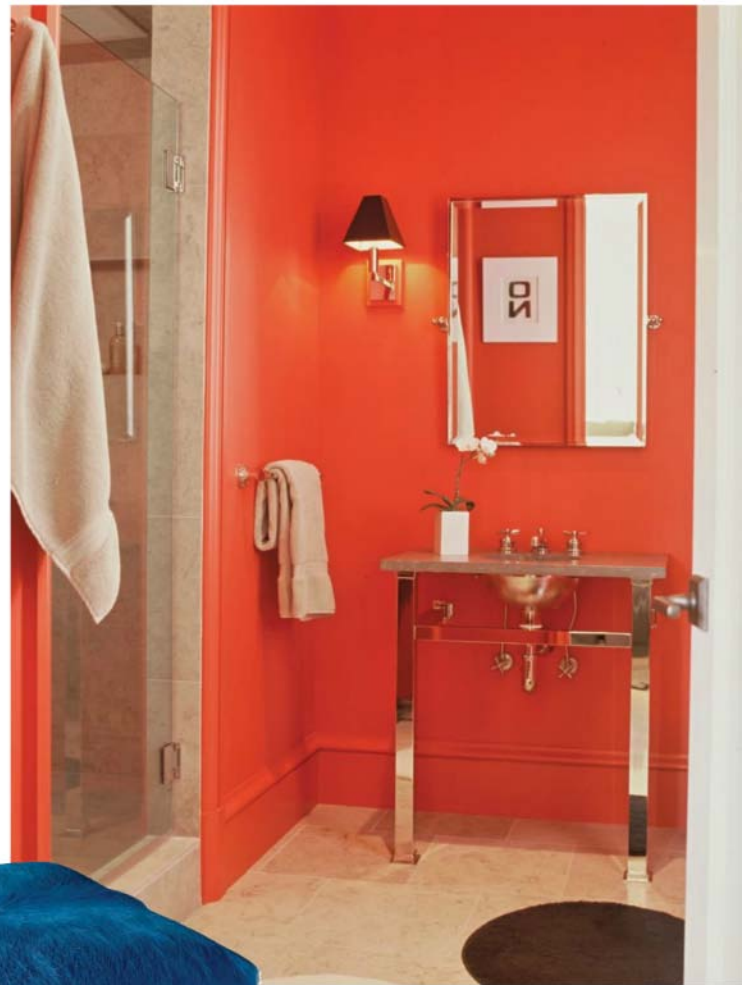
Post-university, Angus worked in New York.

“I still do part time,” she says. She owns Paula + Martha with longtime friend and designer Paula Caravelli. Angus’ career flourished in Manhattan. Her ex-husband’s career brought them to San Francisco. The marriage ended, but Angus stayed in her adopted home. “I love it here,” she says emphatically. Indeed, Angus’ design represents a fresh West Coast vibe, something fellow designer Shane Reilly has known for years. “Shane recently recruited me to work with Gilt.com. She felt my work really exemplified what’s happening right now in West Coast design,” says Angus. Reilly is right. Angus’ selections for the luxury flash sale site have been an enormous hit. Her paintings alone have stronger sales than any other item on Gilt Home.

When describing what inspires her, Angus speaks of fine art, color, and inspiration from world travels—India and Morocco →



Martha Angus Custom Coffee Table (\$10,000). Acrylic on canvas painting by Martha Angus (\$250). The Lola Sofa (\$9,300) from SHINE by S.H.O., part of the Martha Angus Collection. [www.gilt.com/home](http://www.gilt.com/home)



have been particularly influential. Her work has taken her to far corners of the globe as well. She's fond of hotels she's designed in places like Jakarta and is especially proud of her work on the Kimpton Hotel in Chicago. But at the end of the day, she adores residential design. "Right now the majority of my clients are in Silicon Valley. They're usually young families. I have a young son, I think I can relate to their needs for function as well as something fabulous." Though she's known for color, Angus points



Kyle Bunting's Hide Ottoman (\$2,250), part of the Martha Angus Collection at [www.gilt.com/home](http://www.gilt.com/home)

out that the bones of her designs are typically neutral. "I tend to keep the walls, floors, and major furnishings in neutral tones, but bring in bold punches of color with art and accessories." She saves brightly colored walls for unexpected spaces like powder rooms. "I just did one in jade green that's terrific. And for years

I had a hot pink laundry room. I thought, what could be more tedious than time in the laundry room—why not liven it up? Why not indeed? ■

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