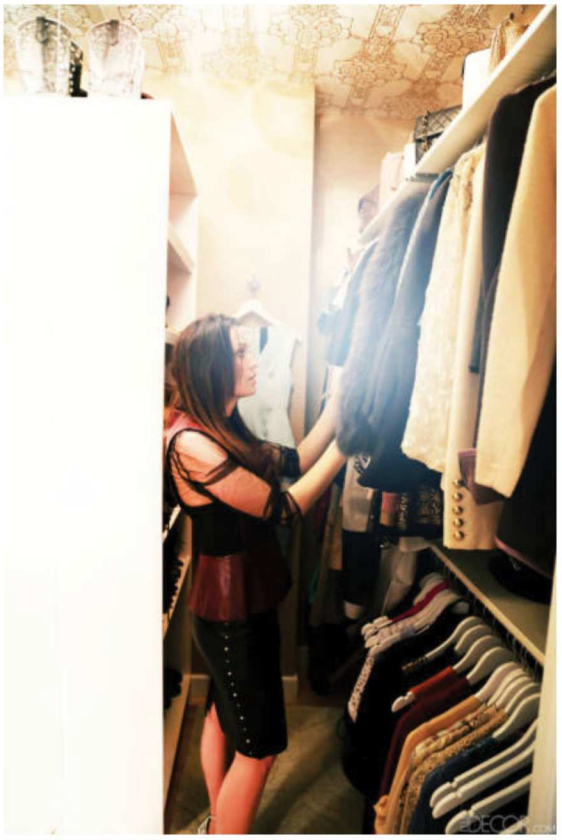
ELLE DECOR

9 DECORATING CUES TO TAKE FROM YOUR CLOSET

For fashion-loving interior designer Daun Curry, a project starts with a client's clothes.

BY SARAH BRAY



Kelly Stuart for Hearst Digital

A CLOSET ASSESSMENT

NYC-based interior designer Daun Curry (pictured left at home), of the firm Modern Declaration, is equally passionate about clothing and decor. Whether it's selecting a new sofa or new shoes, she recommends tapping into the same thought process. "Most of us can wrap our head around putting an outfit together, while decorating a home can be daunting for even the bravest fashion-lover,'" Curry explains flipping through her apartment's walk-in closet. "However, I've found there are clues in everyone's wardrobe that can help define their own personal decorating styles." Don't overcomplicate it. What works in your closet can work in your home." Curry admits that a personal closest assessment justifies her diverse taste in decor. "It's a good exercise to get those creative muscles working," she says. "If anything, it's a jumping off point that anyone can do."





Kelly Stuart for Hearst Digital

DAUN'S BREAKFAST ROOM

The style concepts that Curry sees as applicable to both fashion and decorating:

Personal Style: Comb through your closet and choose some of your very favorite things. Shoes, dresses, socks, ties—even jewelry. Group them together and take it all in: what materials, colors, textures and patterns course through what you love to wear? Note the tailoring: Do you gravitate more towards streamlined, geometric shapes or loose-and-whimsy pieces? Maybe a combination of both? This is a fun exercise in building a material and color palette for your interior space.

Layering: Both great interiors and outfits should be an artful blend of textures and materials. Be sure to incorporate mixed metals, organic elements like wood and stone and varied textiles such as silk, velvet, linen, and leather—real leather has a lot more attitude, but it's always better vintage. Instead of wasting time and energy trying to match, let go and don't be afraid to contrast. It's liberating and modern.



Kelly Stuart for Hearst Digital

DAUN'S BAR

"Here, the shape and the textures relate. The lightness of the top's ruffled appliques echo the feathery quality of the wallpaper."

Function: I'm a total slave to fashion, but most nights I end up in my faded sweatpants and my husband's old tee-shirts. Depending on your personal 'stilettos-to-sweatpants' ratio, you may be more inclined to take risks on furniture that sacrifices physical comfort for daring aesthetic, like a sculptural chrome side chair. It's all about how you feel, but that isn't limited to how cushy your couch is.

Prints: Balance is key. Treat your interior like an outfit--all graphic elements have to be placed in just the right spot to create a sense of harmony. Highlight a ceiling with a bit of patterned wallpaper. Upholster a side chair in a print that pops.

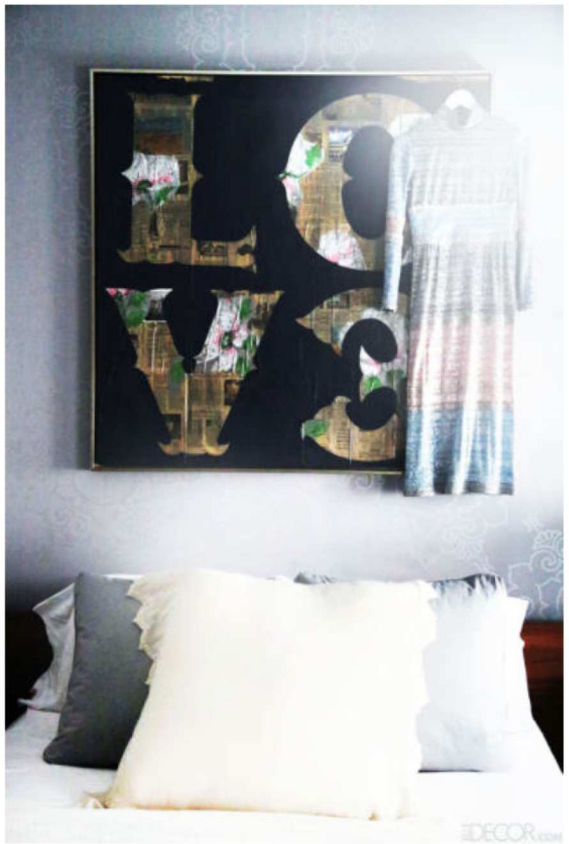
Quality: Less is more. Never buy under pressure—a quality interior and wardrobe are built over time. If you only choose quality pieces that you love, your home and closet will always be timeless.



Kelly Stuart for Hearst Digital

DAUN'S LIVING ROOM

"This sofa and jacket are both neutral, streamlined and multifunctional. The sofa pulls out into a bed and the jacket has different zippers so it can be worn multiple ways."



DAUN'S BEDROOM

"This dress is vintage, from the Bergdorf private collection. The painting, by Peter Tunney, is a mixed media piece made in part with vintage wallpaper. They're both dreamy, ethereal, and have soft metallic hues"

Fashion: Vintage Bergdorf Goodman private collection dress.

Interior: Peter Tunney "Love" painting, Pratesi bedding, David Roos "Tudor Rose" wallpaper.



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DAUN'S DAUGHTER'S ROOM

"I saw this circus-themed wallpaper when I was pregnant and just had to have it!" It's playful and a bit unconventional for a nursery. This Louis Vuitton blouse (with an attached silk hoodie!) has a traditional silhouette—like 19th century circus illustrations referenced by the Catherine Martin wallcovering—but has unexpected moments of whimsy."

Vintage: Vintage pieces tell a story, have a soul and add depth of character. Using vintage is one way to break through the monotony of mass production.

Color: What colors are the most prevalent in your closet? Remember the room you are decorating for, because color evokes emotion. Most likely, you'll want your bedroom to be filled with colors that soothe, while your office hues may be more vibrant and energizing. If you tend to dress primarily in black, white or neutrals, keep your focus on sheen and texture.



DAUN'S SITTING AREA

"I wear black and white constantly —and so do my spaces. It's a neutral that can be infused into any look. My husband's a musician, so that energy influenced the rock-and-roll masculinity that connects this painting and the fedora and vest combo."



DAUN'S SIDE TABLE

"I don't think you should have to keep everything in your closet. You might not even wear it, but you hold onto it because it's beautiful and can appreciate it as a decorative object."

A stack of vintage hats tops an antique marble table.

Customization: Borrow fashion details from your wardrobe to create custom touches around your home. A pleated skirt could inspire a decorative pillow or window treatment, the architectural lines of a shoe could become the foot of an ottoman, a patent leather handbag—a lacquered wall.



Travel Tokens: I always pick up clothing, furniture, art and accessories when I travel. These objects tell the greatest stories of our lives: the places we've been, the food we've tasted, all of the romance along the way. Always surround yourself with these things.



DAUN'S BOOKSHELF

"A lot of my clients have things they hold onto because they love them, but they aren't going to wear them again. One of my clients had this chain metal vest from the '70s that she adored. Even though she doesn't wear it, it's meaningful. We ended up making a custom chandelier out of it!"

Openly displayed belts and bags allow for all-day admiration.