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**JULY 2011**  
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**T**ownesizing to a three-level 2,000-square-foot cottage in Santa Monica, California, gave Mary and Tom Korsan a clean slate for kooky colors and patterns that had been missing from their life. Joining forces with design-pro friend Sasha Emeraco, Mary scrapped the bland furnishings she'd had for years in favor of a bolder, more contemporary look that emphasizes feet-up comfort. "Our two older boys moved out so we didn't need bedrooms for them anymore," Mary says. Taking care not to clutter the space, the couple—owners of Great Guns USA, a film production company—chose fewer pieces that serve multiple functions, and they jazzed up walls with playful art by local emerging talent. "Whatever you put on clean, white walls looks great," Mary says, describing what friends call her and Tom's "brave" approach to decorating. Many items are vintage. Nothing's precious. Not one thing demands to be taken more seriously than a day at the beach. Which is where they often are when not at home—biting the surf with their youngest, 11-year-old Hank.



#### bold moves

A fresh coat of Benjamin Moore Decorator's White made the living room feel larger, though its odd shape and multiple doors created a design challenge. Previous owners had solved the problem with a family-friendly neutral sofa, which the Korsans bought from eBay. To pop up the gray upholstery, they covered new cushions in a graphic linen and tossed on bold-patterned pillows. Sasha added a Christopher Farr striped rug and soft cushion poufs, which double as footstools, tables and extra seating. The vintage Earne chair in seafoam leather was a find from a Palm Springs shop.