

Happily ever after

Our First Home

Newlyweds Laura and Eric Linebarger give their Prairie Village starter home a thoroughly modern makeover



Clockwise from top left: Sitting pretty: Laura and Eric Linebarger. In the living room, Cubitec shelving from Design Within Reach stylishly stows the couple's collection of design books, magazines and keepsakes. On one shelf, a vintage typewriter displays a note that reads 'you're just my type.'

NEWLYWEDS LAURA AND ERIC LINEBARGER couldn't be a more perfect match. They're both creative types: Eric's an architect for 360 Architecture and one half of the local photography studio LemonLime; Laura is a graphic designer for Hallmark. He wears mostly black, so she's free to experiment with her love of brightly colored frocks—keeping them totally in sync. And, of course, they're truly, madly and completely in love.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY AARON LEIMKUEHLER

A gallery wall is the perfect place to show off some of the couple's favorite shots, including an engagement photo and the save the date from their wedding. The wire Bertoia chairs that anchor the wall were Laura and Eric's first major dual-purchase.



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After the two said I Do on April 9 (which happened to be their two year anniversary together), the only thing left was for Eric to move in to the Prairie Village pad Laura had previously shared with roommates. The design-minded duo quickly set to work creating a new look for the home that reflected both their styles: Eric's love of minimalism and clean lines and Laura's whimsical touches and pops of color.

The result? A light, bright and modern space packed with personal touches.

"I don't feel like either one of us is sacrificing our own style here," says Laura.

Because each had already owned a home, they had the basic living necessities on lock. So when it came time to register for wedding gifts, the Linebargers smartly stuck to pieces that would help them entertain and that had the potential to be displayed. Some of the glass labware on the entry table were wedding gifts as well as a number of frames around the house, many now holding art-work created by Laura.



At top: The home's open floorplan leaves plenty of room for a nesting coffee table and a retro sofa. The web-like wall sculpture in the entry was originally designed to be used as a curtain or partition. **Above:** Eric made Laura this wood-framed Polaroid collection for Valentine's Day.



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From left: Open shelves in the kitchen corral a number of items that the Linebargers scored as wedding gifts: cookbooks, colorful mixing bowls and serving pieces. The graphic, black-and-white art piece was made by Laura. In the dining room, Laura shows off her growing collection of bold Bundt pans. The upstairs office is centered around two facing desks handily fashioned from IKEA countertops and sawhorses. The 1940 industrial bay lamp originally hung in a bank at 99th and Holmes streets. The soft pad office chair and the yellow molded plastic piece are both Eames chairs.



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A gallery wall in the living room—anchored by a pair of Bertioia chairs—shows off engagement photos and a poster displaying the phrase “For Like Ever,” a favorite line of the couple that’s also engraved on the inside of their wedding bands. Vintage cameras (a nod to Eric’s love of photography) and colorful crocheted cupcakes (a nod to Laura’s love of cupcakes) are sprinkled throughout the translucent shelving that sits across from a curved settee, upholstered in a fun ’70s fabric and inherited from Eric’s grandma.

In the kitchen, cookbooks received as wedding gifts and wine bottles picked up along their honeymoon through California wine country stock the open shelving. The 2 Better Together painting was a birthday gift to Eric from Laura. Between two rows of colorful Bundt pans, a buffet in the dining room holds the collection of cake plates, cookie jars and milk bottles that were used to serve milk and cookies at the couple’s wedding.

The Linebargers spend so much time plugged in to their computers that when it came to redesigning the office, they decided to anchor the room with facing desks fashioned from IKEA countertops and sawhorses. A 1940 industrial bay lamp shines light on the workspace, and a chalkboard-painted wall and mounted corkboard are perfect spots for inspiration.

The work of another design-minded husband and wife duo, Charles and Ray Eames, can also be found here. His-and-hers Eames chairs—each unknowingly gifted by Eric and Laura to each other as wedding gifts—are displayed in the office and master bedroom.

Next to Eric’s Eames addition in the bedroom, a molded plywood lounge chair, a moose trophy made of recycled cardboard (from cardboardsafari.com and affectionately named Mason) holds pride of place above the bed. And keeping with the wedding-themed touches



Another Eames chair pops up in the master bedroom. Sitting on the bed is a flowered pillow crafted by friends and family during Laura’s bridal shower.

the newlyweds have so smartly scattered throughout the interior, the bloom-covered pillow that sits at the helm of the gray-and-white striped West Elm bedding was actually crafted by friends and family members at Laura’s bridal shower.

With a classic love story like the Linebargers’—boy and girl meet, fall in love, get married and move into a picture-perfect pad—all that seems to be missing is the white picket fence. But for now, Laura and Eric are happy with the white lacquer dining table they’re expecting to be delivered any day. ♦



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