

reality check

Serious doesn't cut it for this color-happy mom. Her home is a place to embrace real life (messes and all!).

by JODY GARLOCK photos KIP DAWKINS produced by SANDRA MOHLMANN

NATURAL FIT
A wraparound porch with rockers extends the living (and run-around) space in Jenny and Joe Keenan's Charleston-area cottage.





DOUBLE PLAY
The rug-free dining area is primarily a play space, especially for wheeled toys. The Swedish clock reflects Jenny's fun style. "I feel like it has a personality of its own," she says.

BASKETS ARE A RUNNING JOKE IN JENNY KEENAN'S HOME. "MY HUSBAND CALLS US A FAMILY OF BASKETS," SHE SAYS. IN THE DINING ROOM,

living room, bedrooms, hallways, and the porch, baskets are loaded with toys and books for the couple's kids, Jay and Lily. "They just pour everything out, and when they're done playing, everything goes right back in," says Jenny, an interior designer. "I love things to be beautiful and look perfect, but that's just not realistic. Baskets are a pretty and practical way to sort of have it both ways."

Having it both ways is something Jenny has mastered. Her Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, home is a comfortable reflection of her personal style—she's

partial to pastels and girly things—and the reality of two kids and a big black Lab, Grady. "I wanted a home that was playful and comfortable but that was still pretty under it all," she says.

For Jenny, that meant adding splashes of unexpected color—pinks, and reds—with the watery blues and greens she loves. "Color has always made me so happy, and I want my kids to feel happy, too," she says. "And I don't want anything to be too serious or formal."

The open kitchen, dining room, and living room fit with that informality.

SELF EXPRESSION The tapestry above the mantel, above, brings a youthful energy to the living room. "We tried a million different pieces of art, but they just seemed expected," Jenny says. "This says what our home is about."

“Everything happens in this one area,” Jenny says. When she’s scraping Play-Doh off the kitchen island or her husband, Joe, is flipping the Saturday morning pancakes, they can still keep tabs on the kids coloring at the coffee table or rummaging through a basket. After dinner, there’s always a beeline to the living room. “Every night we’re piled on the sofa,” Jenny says. “I wanted a big comfy sofa that you can’t hurt. Nothing can really get hurt in this house. It’s about kids and real living.”



FANCY THAT Chandeliers dress up the master bath, above, and Lily’s bedroom, below right. “I like every space to have a bit of whimsy,” Jenny says. SURPRISE ITEMS Mismatched seating (the round stool is Jay’s) and an ethnic rug, below left, are fun touches in the kitchen.



WORKING IT “I wanted a little feminine space of my own,” Jenny says of the office built in at the end of the upstairs hallway. Floral wallpaper and a spray-painted bamboo chair set it off as “her” space.

“The master bedroom is our retreat, not so much from the kids but with the kids. We snuggle, read, have pillow fights. We couldn’t live without a king-size bed.”

JENNY KEENAN



HIS AND HERS
Antique mirrored stars glam up the master bedroom. “They’re graphic and add a bit of romance,” Jenny says. The retro-looking ceiling fan was Joe’s must-have (and practical) item. ■