

decorating

northern exposure

With a mix of the old, the new, and the Nordic, a design blogger turns on the charm with a fresh remodel of her Minnesota home.

"I wanted comfortable furniture with a masculine shape and a traditional, ornate rug in pretty blue tones to make the room feel more eclectic."

COFFEE TABLE *Skroom* by CB2 \$499 [domino.com/spring16](#) MIRROR *Grant* \$125 [schoolhouseelectric.com](#) LOUNGE CHAIRS *Bertoia Diamond* with full cover \$1,997 [dir.com](#) SOFA *Avee* in *ophelia mushroom* by CB2 \$1,399 [domino.com/spring16](#) RUG *Anastasia* in blue and gold by Loloi from \$231.67 [domino.com/spring16](#)



Arends loves pink, gray, and white but keeps her wardrobe pared down and seasonless.



Kate Arends, the voice and vision behind lifestyle blog *Wit & Delight*, has a sharp instinct for potential. The moment she stepped into a historic Tudor-style cottage in St. Paul, Minnesota, she knew that she had found her home. Her husband, however, was less enthusiastic. "Joe took one look and said, 'Absolutely not.'" But Arends prevailed, pointing out that they could balance the house's traditional (if run-down) elements, such as the beamed ceilings and original fireplace, with modern details and a more practical layout. "It had great bones and high ceilings, and I could tell there was a lot I could work with," she said. "The idea was to honor the 1920s architecture while bringing in more natural light and up-to-date amenities."

photographs by WING TA text by GILLIAN KOENIG  
interior design by KATE ARENDS



CHAIRS *Workhorse* \$166 [dotandbo.com](#) LIGHTING *Adel* from \$525 [parkstudiola.com](#) CABINET *LIATORP* \$499 [ikea.com](#)



Graphic cement tile, pale gray Cambria quartz countertops, and brass kitchen hardware from Anthropologie were sourced on Pinterest and shared with Arends's *Wit & Delight* audience during the renovation.



The kitchen underwent a complete renovation and is the heart of the house. "I had the best time picking out all of the materials," Arends says.

COUNTER STOOLS *Hot Mesh* by Blu Dot \$199 [domino.com/spring16](#) FLOATING SHELVES custom, [mcdonaldremodeling.com](#) RANGE *Cormatin* by Lacanche from \$6,295 [frenchranges.com](#) TILE *Star* from Pacific Collection in black, white, and light grey \$82.80/box, [cementtileshop.com](#) LIGHTING *Luna* in natural brass with 10" shade \$199-\$234 [schoolhouseelectric.com](#) KNOBS *Ory* \$10 each, [anthropologie.com](#)

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The deep blue in the office is punctuated by a brass lamp and a pink side chair.

**WALL COLOR** *Compass Blue (MQ5-54)* \$3.94/sample pot, [behr.com](http://behr.com) **CHAIR** *Dowel Side Shell* fiberglass in pink \$375 [modernica.net](http://modernica.net) **TABLE LAMP** *Kinetic* in brass \$266.25 [robertabbeylightingstore.com](http://robertabbeylightingstore.com)



"We wallpapered this tiny powder room off the corridor and painted the ceiling pink," says Arends. "Why not do something crazy in there—it's a little low-risk moment that can offer some delight."

**WALLPAPER** *Peonies in Mint* by Rifle Paper Co. \$190/roll, [hyggeandwest.com](http://hyggeandwest.com)



A collection of personal treasures in the entryway.

[domino.com](http://domino.com)

The result is a calm and relaxed space, with a curated mix of old and new furnishings that pays homage to the lifestyle blogger's Scandinavian roots. Arends took a room-by-room approach to the 1,500-square-foot house to make it feel bigger and, as she puts it, "more exciting to walk through." While the master bedroom has a spare, industrial-chic feel, the study is more traditional and cozy. Her airy kitchen was quite literally designed from the ground up. "I knew I wanted this crazy tile floor, so I started there," says Arends. And a pair of Harry Bertoia diamond chairs in the living room—originals inherited from her grandmother's sitting room—reflect her guiding philosophy: "If you have something you love, design a room around it!"



The guest room has a minimalist, industrial vibe.

**PILLOW** *Wink Wink* by People I've Loved \$99 [domino.com/spring16](http://domino.com/spring16)  
**LAMP** *Emerson* light \$115 [shop.onefortythree.com](http://shop.onefortythree.com) **QUILT** *No. 1* \$425 [domino.com/spring16](http://domino.com/spring16)



Check out Arends's latest collaboration with Target!

**IPHONE CASE** *Squares* with mirror power bank \$24.99/set, [target.com](http://target.com)

