

SPACE INVADERS

Lush brightly coloured interiors are her thing, with funky flea-market finds and antiques set against her own fabulous artworks and modern pieces.



Mums and Asters Rug
by Kim Parker



Apple Green Stripe Rug
by Kim Parker
Kim's New York
Apartment



Urban Essay No 8
by Kim Parker

Q1. Your interior style has been described as 'Modern eclectic florals', is this correct? If so, what is Modern Eclectic Florals, and how can we achieve this look?

"Modern Eclectic Florals is one way of describing my work. I do think my signature style comes from a number of influences. I love the densely packed wallpapers of the Arts and Crafts Movement, like the work of William Morris or the fabrics and wallpapers of the Wiener Werkstatte. I love the exuberant colour found in the textiles of India and embroideries from Mexico. I have Eastern European heritage, so rich reds and Russian embroidered shawls and tapestries excite me too. I think all of these influences come together when I paint, along with my earlier career as a classical flautist. I have a rich sonic archive of classical music inside me to draw from that moves my brushes along".

Q2. What are the key features?

"Using my own apartment as an example (main image and image 4), I like bringing familial colours together in a room (such as, varying shades of green punctuated by accents such as royal blue or red). It's a good place to start, and then depart, creating a space with unexpected quirky objects and dashes of colour that add visual excitement".

1. Furniture: "The table is from a library in Connecticut bought at an antique store, and the chairs collected at different times and places – flea markets and shops. They look, at first glance, like a set, but are not. I like bringing pieces together that don't perfectly match, although they are often from the same period. The chandelier was purchased at another flea market many years back. It has a more Art Deco style, but adds an unexpected dash of wit and visual contrast".

2. Walls: "This is one of my "Color Essay" paintings on canvas. It's not always about flowers for me. My walls are decorated with many different paintings that I find at flea markets or on eBay. I also have paintings by my late grandmother Lee, and Mary Abrams, whose canvases are similar in feeling to Bonnard's work. I collect Haitian art and hand-painted fabric tapestries from India that serve as a headboard in the bedroom. My walls are an expression of eclecticism, an embrace of many cultures and styles".

3. Floors: "My designer rugs grace most of the floors – whether stripes in rich colours or floral handmade rugs. We are members of Goodweave, the international organisation that ensures that all my rugs were not made using child labour. They are wool and take a few months to create in India, and all yarns are hand-dyed. The final product is stunning. I am always in awe when the finished rug

arrives at our showroom. The craftsmanship is simply breathtaking.

I also enjoy combining older Persian rugs with my newer ones. We have an Uzbeki vintage carpet that sits beautifully with my handmade floral rugs. A rug can really be the focal point of a room, so it's important to be mindful of not bringing in too much pattern in a way that jars the eye. My love for Post Impressionism and the paintings of Vuillard, in particular, where there's a lot of layered pattern sitting side by side, are the inspiration for combining patterns in a room".

4. Furnishings: "I think a home is a personal collage of objects that tell the stories of your life. There are pieces inherited from family, or oddities found on a dreary winter's Sunday at the flea market. There are treasures from friends and collected objects from travels that hold meaning and inspire us. I have

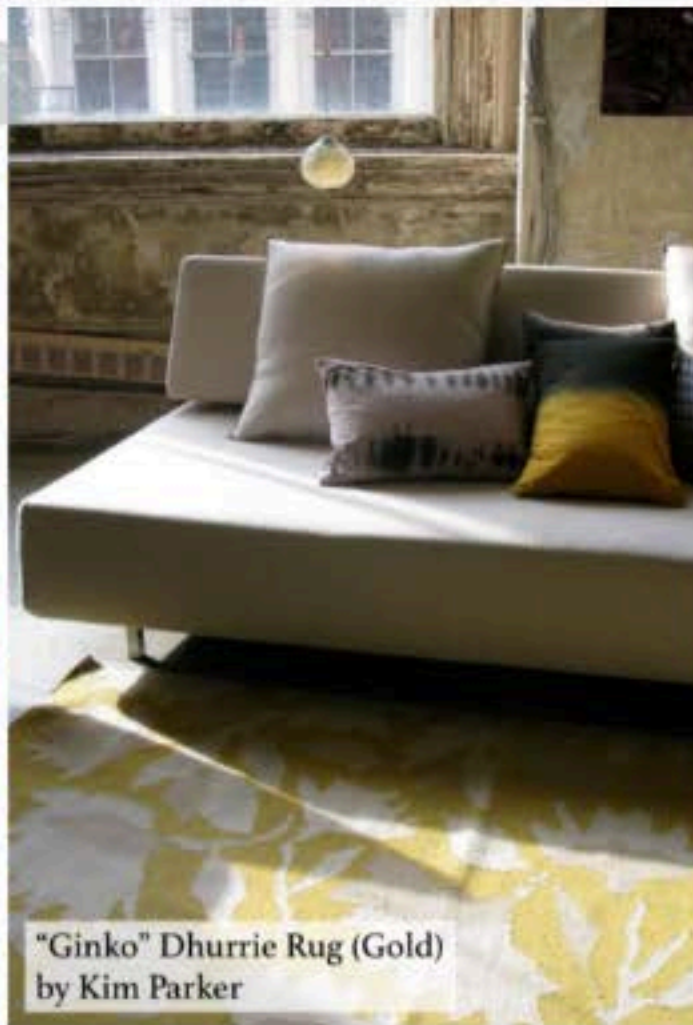


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"Anil's Garden" Kantha Quilt
by Kim Parker



"Samba" Plush Rug
by Kim Parker



"Ginko" Dhurrie Rug (Gold)
by Kim Parker



Ariadne's Dream
by Kim Parker

beautiful lamps and end tables from my Mother and Danish modern dressers from my grandparents. I have hand-embroidered floral bedspreads from my collection reflected in Victorian mirrors across the room. Decorating for me is really an ongoing process, just as life is. You learn to edit, to perfect, and change with the times. You bring in what feels right for you now, and let go of what you may have outgrown, judiciously nurturing one's current aesthetic".

Q3. There's an innate romanticism in your work, plus a love of nature. What inspires you?

"I am a sensualist. Abundance does not embarrass me. I love rich pattern and colour and am sure the romantic in me comes from having looked at countless art books with my Mother throughout my childhood. Those richly layered interiors of Bonnard,

Vuillard, Matisse, etc were everlasting visual inspirations for my young eyes. Both my parents are lovers of nature, so there was always a connection to beauty and nature in this way – whether through my Mother's love for gardening, or birds, or my Father's connection to the water".

Q4. Where does the inspiration for your beautiful vintage designs come from?

"One of my dear friends once said to me, "Kim, you have created your own world in the design industry. People don't realise that every leaf and flower, every colour choice comes from your earlier life as a classical musician, and everything you have been through." I paint from the heart, always. My creative process holds a deep history, steeped in personal triumphs and challenges; inspirations and influences, voices and a connection I have nurtured since I could hold

a crayon. It would be too hard to pinpoint just one influence, even though my work has been described as 'Modern Arts and Crafts' and compared to the Bloomsbury period. I think there's just as much of an influence from Mexican embroideries, and the textiles of India. I think my Eastern European roots, and the exuberant energy you find in Russian culture, whether music or dance, have also influenced my work".

Q5. Can we get hold of your designs and products in the UK?

"Yes, this is a truly special time for me as it is the introduction of my new fabric and wallpaper collection with Clarke & Clarke of London; a dream and vision I have held in my heart since childhood".

The Quote To Note...

"To be alive is to witness. It is to gather like a mad harvester; to take into our heart as much truth and beauty as it can hold. To walk fully is not to stare into our iPhones. I know I am equally guilty of this behaviour, but as a painter of flowers, I will not allow myself to be seduced by a world so void of sensuality. We cannot forget how to stare into our dog's soulful eyes, or through the branches of a tree that lead us to an open sky. We cannot forget how to look up, smile and say hello."

Kim Parker

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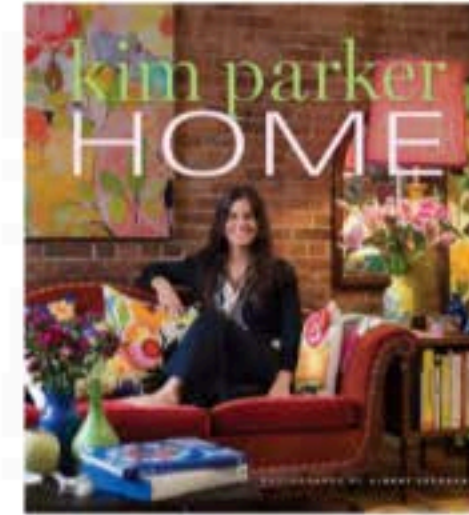


Kim Parker cushions

Kim Parker Home: A Life In Design

Kim Parker's rise to international renown as a designer and artist is truly the story of the American dream. A promising classical flautist with no formal design education, she hit the streets of New York City with her gorgeous designs, worked her way up, and is now one of the hottest, hippest contemporary designers anywhere. Her signature floral prints have become hugely popular

and she's been profiled in countless design magazines around the world. Her bedding and bath line was launched at Bloomingdale's; her best-selling and award-winning designer rug collection was launched worldwide by The Rug Company; and her tableware and giftware collections for Spode launched at Macy's. ●



► For more information visit: www.kimparker.tv

Published by Harry N. Abrams in 2008, this visually stunning design book/memoir, chronicles the author's challenging journey to the top of the design world, culminating with the launch of her own label at Bloomingdale's in 2004, which became an instant best seller.

