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ACTRESS KERI RUSSELL AND
HER HUSBAND TAKE A
HANDS-ON APPROACH TO REALIZING THE BROOKLYN
BROWNSTONE OF THEIR DREAMS

Text by Kathleen Hackett · Photography by William Waldron

Produced by Anita Sarsidi



adds. Of his many treasures, the less-is-more Russell is slyly enthusiastic: "I tell him it will all look good in his basement studio."

Marriage, a son, and a move to Brooklyn followed in short order for the couple. They considered a loft in Tribeca, but the allure of living in a whole house with a backyard captivated them both. Russell grew up in big-sky states—Colorado and Arizona—and Deary spent an island childhood almost entirely outdoors. He didn't mind, either, that "you can take a sledgehammer to anything and no one can complain."

After looking at more than two dozen houses, from the tumbledown to top-to-bottom renovations, they purchased an 1860s brownstone that needed a ton of work. "I can't help myself," says Deary, "but why buy someone else's renovation if you're going to redo it anyway?"

Easy to say for a guy whom Russell calls her *MacGyver*. Deary gutted the place to brick and studs himself, then moved walls to open it up, most notably in the master bath, where now no walls exist at all. The pumpkin-pine floor stayed, though he painstakingly pulled up, numbered, restored, and nailed back every plank. Four 40-foot Dumpsters later, he had turned a warren of suffocating rooms into a stunning, light-filled shell.

It was a collaboration from the beginning, with Russell sketching room layouts, choosing furnishings, and picking out fabrics while

Deary took charge of materials—almost all of them cast off. The kitchen cabinetry is built entirely from a dismantled post-and-beam house, as are the bathroom vanities. Deary turned pieces of discarded pine into the handsome porthole mirror that hangs over the living room mantel. The ficus there grows out of a Donald Judd-inspired plank box that was once a desk. He dug joists out of a Dumpster and saw the perfect kitchen table, then unearthed the house's old shutters in the basement and turned them into window casings. Beside their bed, a golden block of reclaimed pine flooring serves as a night table. After living out of a suitcase for years, Russell now hangs her clothes on sleek plumbing pipes Deary saved from a past renovation job.

Indeed, the young actress is so enamored of her husband's talent that when it came time to fill the place with furniture, Russell made sure it didn't speak louder than the rooms themselves. "With so much wood in the equation, it could have turned into a cliché of farmhouse chic," she says, "so I stuck with a neutral palette, kept it spare, and worked in as many textures as I could without straying into girly territory."

There's no possibility of that—at least not in the backyard. Deary is building a Ping-Pong table just in time for summer, a project to which Russell smilingly responds, "It will look really great in your studio." ■



In the master bedroom, the headboard fabric and bedding are by Matteo, the sheepskin rug is by IKEA, and the chandelier is an antiques-fair find; Deary made the bedside table, and the walls are painted in Benjamin Moore's Stone Hearth. **FACING PAGE, FROM LEFT:** A Victoria + Albert claw-foot tub with fittings by Samuel Heath in the master bath. Deary built the shelves in the dressing room; the rug is by Shaw Floors, and the linen-upholstered chair is by John Derian. See Resources.

Items pictured but not listed are from private collections.

TALENT

PAGES 64-66: Paul Loebach of Paul Loebach Furniture Design (646-489-2749; paulloebach.com).

PAGE 68: Tara Chapas of Chapas Textiles (718-522-7864; chapastextiles.com).

PAGES 70-72: Chris Ely of the Estate Management Studies program at the French Culinary Institute (888-324-2433; frenchculinary.com).

PAGE 74: Roll & Hill (718-387-6132; rollandhill.com).

TREND ALERT

PAGE 82: Polka-dot cotton-silk ottoman jacket, \$1,525; and skirt, \$895; and polka-dot silk blouse, \$860; all from spring/summer 2011, by Moschino (212-243-8600; moschino.com). Polka Dot 18K gold, cocholong, and turquoise ring, \$7,950, by Verdura (212-758-3388; verdura.com).

Circa linen-viscose, in multi, #J476F-03, by Jane Churchill, to the trade from Cowtan & Tout (212-647-6900; cowtan.com). Ladybird viscose-polyester, in gourmandise, #O7762003, by Bousso, to the trade from Pierre Frey (212-421-0534; pierrefrey.com).

Red Dot porcelain teapot, #18323, \$40, by Rosanna Inc. (866-767-2662; rosannainc.com). Antique chaise longue, \$5,600; upholstered in Monique cotton, in indigo, \$605/5 m.; and Reverse Dot cotton pillow, in indigo, \$103; both by Les Indiennes; all from John Derian Dry Goods (212-677-8408; johnderian.com).

Multidot melamine serving set, #003SVS, \$16, by French Bull (frenchbull.com). Polka Dot note card set, in blue and green, #3C3-W-PREPBG, \$60/set of 10, by Dempsey & Carroll (877-750-1878; dempseyandcarroll.com).

Pom Pom linen-cotton, in mallow, #3859, to the trade from Country Swedish (212-838-1976; countryswedish.com). Polka Dot glasses, #LIB115766C, \$6 ea., by Fishs Eddy (877-347-4733; fishseddy.com).

Pompom standard cotton sham, #802440, \$155; and boudoir sham, #802439, \$96; both in figue, by Yves Delorme (800-322-3911; yvesdelorme.com).

Gum Drop acrylic, in Capri, #45101-01, by Sunbrella, to the trade from Silver State Fabrics (801-972-6770; silverstatetextiles.com).

Poivre polyester blend, #19326-655, by Etamine, to the trade from Zimmer + Rohde (212-758-5357; zimmer-rohde.com).

RSVP

PAGE 84: Michael Kors (279 rue Saint-Honoré, 75008 Paris, France; 011-33-1-7036-4440; michaelkors.com).

ART SHOW

PAGES 94-96: Lucy Williams is represented by McKee Gallery (212-688-5951; mckeegallery.com).

SHORTLIST

PAGE 98: The Museum of Modern Art (212-708-9400; moma.org). Road bike by Seven Cycles (617-923-7774; sevencycles.com).

Ice cream maker, in red, #ICE-21R, by Cuisinart (800-726-0190; cuisinart.com). Turtlenecks by Uniqlo (uniqlo.com). Reading glasses, #2237, by Eyebobs (866-393-2627; eyebobs.com). Hot tub by Canadian Hot Tubs Inc. (519-745-1651; canhothtub.com). Watch by Nike (nike.com). Il Gattopardo (212-246-0412; ilgattopardonyc.com).

UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

PAGE 106: Deborah Nevins of Deborah Nevins & Assoc. (212-925-1125; dnalandscape.com).

THE TOP 10 WICKER PIECES

PAGES 144-46: Malcolm James Kutner of Malcolm James Kutner Inc. (212-255-1189; malcolmjameskutner.com). Amanda Nisbet of Amanda Nisbet Design Inc. (212-860-9133; amandanisbetdesign.com).

PAGE 146: 1 Wicker hanging lounge, in natural, 52" h. x 27" w. x 72" l., \$5,500, by Blackman Cruz Workshop (323-466-8600; blackmancruz.com), from Tamara Magel (646-852-6277; tamaramagel.com).

2 Bridgeport sofa, in custom blue, with muslin cushions, 37" h. x 84.5" w. x 37" d., #7174, \$4,376, by Palecek (800-274-7730; palecek.com).

3 Palmetto All-Weather accent table, in honey, 17.5" h. x 20" dia., \$149, by Pottery Barn (888-779-5176; potterybarn.com).

4 Majorca chaise, in weathered brown, 10"-34.5" h. x 37" w. x 89" l., \$1,395; with cushion of textured linen, in sand, \$425; both by Restoration Hardware (800-910-9836; restorationhardware.com).

5 Hamptons Ring table, in musk, 20" h. x 16" d. x 47.5" l., \$1,785, from DDC (212-685-0800; ddcnyc.com).

6 Antalya outdoor armchair, in driftwood, 33.75" h. x 23" w. x 24" d., #AN-45, \$525, by McGuire (212-689-1565; mcguirefurniture.com).

7 Havana Modular lounge chair, in willow, with canyus cushions, 33.5" h. x 30" w. x 36" d., #307W, \$2,255, by Povl Eskildsen for Gloster Furniture (888-456-7837; gloster.com).

8 Conservatory Garden étagère, in mahogany, 48.5" h. x 51.5" w. x 14" d., #2370-60, \$3,105, by Ralph Lauren Home (888-475-7674; ralphlaurenhome.com).

9 Capsule bench/cocktail table, in bamboo green, 15" h. x 48" dia., \$2,200, by Janus et Cie (800-245-2687; janusetcie.com).

10 Bel Air barstool, in white, with cushion of Twitchell polypropylene, in gray, 39" h. x 21" w. x 21" d., \$980, by Sacha Lakic for Roche Bobois (212-889-5304; roche-bobois.com).

DANIEL'S DISH

PAGES 149-50: Daniel Boulud of restaurant Daniel (danielnyc.com).

PAGE 149: East Hampton Wicker glazed-pottery dinner plate, #EHWB-3939, \$27; and soup bowl, #EHWB-3496, \$23; both by Home, James! (855-329-8878; homejameseasthampton.com). Berry and Thread stainless-steel dinner forks, #FWBT01-57, \$18 ea., by Juliska (888-414-8448; juliska.com).

Porcelain canister, in ivory glaze, \$35/sm., from Matsu (617-266-9707; matsuboston.com). Philippe linen tea towel, #01549, \$23/pr., by LinenMe (312-233-2929; linenme.com).

Caviar, \$50/2-oz. jar, from North Star Caviar (northstarcaviar.com). Smoked Scottish salmon, \$45/lb., by Daniel Boulud Cordon Rouge (danielnyc.com).

PAGE 150: Hana ceramic dishes, \$8/sm.; and \$17/med.; both from Matsu.

A GOOD VINTAGE

PAGES 174-83: Interior design and renovation by Michael DePerno (707-591-3446; michaeldeperno.com).

PAGE 174: Lama wool rug, in gravel, by Tufenkian Artisan Carpets (800-432-9917; tufenkiancarpets.com). Bali Natural Curaçao window blinds, in caramelized, #21003, by Springs Window Fashions (877-792-0002; baiiblinds.com).

PAGES 176-77: In living room, sofa upholstered in Belgian linen, in ivory, #34354-1, to the trade from

Clarence House (800-803-2850; clarencehouse.com). Floors of fumed Russian white oak by Siberian Floors (212-343-1510; siberianfloors.com).

In breakfast area, floor paved in Aeon concrete tiles, in chateau, #AS11130, by Ann Sacks (800-278-8453; annsacks.com).

PAGE 178: Stilo Isola stainless-steel vent hood, #STILIS36SS, by Faber (508-358-5353; faberonline.com). Concrete countertops by Bohemian Stoneworks (707-861-9067; bohemianstoneworks.com).

Vintage rush-and-wood stools, to the trade from JF Chen (323-466-9700; jfchen.com).

PAGE 179: Vintage enameled-aluminum pendant light by Fog & Merup from Nancy Boy Inc. (415-552-3802; nancyboy.com).

PAGE 181: Sofa upholstered in Arion Check polyester blend, #HW-0917, by Hinson & Co., to the trade from Brunswick & Fils (212-838-7878; brunswick.com).

PAGE 182: In master bath, Field stoneware tile, in dark eucalyptus, by Heath Ceramics (heathceramics.com). Conoduo enameled-steel tub, #733, by Kaldewei (866-822-2527; kaldewei.com). Ambit brass tub filler by Waterworks (800-899-6757; waterworks.com).

Quartz countertop, in blizzard, #2141, by CaesarStone (877-978-2789; caesarstone.com). Ambit brass sink fittings by Waterworks. In master bedroom, Prima alpaca throw, in butternut, #4200, by Sandra Jordan (707-836-9240; sandrajordan.com).

PAGE 183: Ceramic lamp by Samuel Marx from Liz O'Brien (212-755-3800; lizobrien.com).

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PAGES 184-89: Renovation by Shane Deary of Deary Construction LLC (347-515-1816; dearyconstruction.blogspot.com).

PAGE 184: Marlena armchairs, #1006-005T, by Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams (800-789-5401; mgbwhome.com). Affinity Shag nylon rug, in afternoon cloud, by Shaw Floors (shawfloors.com).

Arctic Pear glass-and-bronze light fixture by Ochre (212-414-4332; ochrestore.com). Custom-made tufted ottoman; and Some Fell on Good Ground by Hugo Guinness; both from John Derian Dry Goods (212-677-8408; johnderian.com).

Curtains of Esprit wool, in dove, #7673-04, to the trade from Cowtan & Tout (212-647-6900; cowtan.com).

PAGES 186-87: In kitchen, 30" Professional Custom Series range, VGCC530-4B; and Professional wall hood; both by Viking (vikingrange.com).

36" Built-In Classic refrigerator by Sub-Zero (800-222-7920; subzero.com). Alira Dual-Spray Pull-Out stainless-steel sink fittings, #32-999-SDO, by Grohe (groheamerica.com).

Burnside brass light fixture, in oil-rubbed bronze, #A2340, by Rejuvenation (888-401-1900; rejuvenation.com). In dining room, Biscayne wire chairs, in brown, #1034689, by Peddlers Home Design, available at ABC Carpet & Home (212-473-3000; abchome.com).

Curtains of Esprit wool, in dove, #7673-04, by Larsen, to the trade from Cowtan & Tout.

PAGE 188: In master bath, Richmond Englishcast tub, in white, #RIC-N-SW, by Victoria + Albert (800-421-7189; vandabaths.com). Fairfield brass fittings, in polished chrome, #V2KA30, by Samuel Heath (212-599-5177; samuel-heath.com).

Curtains of Mayan silk-polyester, in mushroom, by S. Harris, to the trade from Fabricut (800-999-5600; sharris.com). Chinese Landscape, Yellow Mountain 011 by Hen Lei from Luma (212-219-9497; luma.com).

In dressing room, Fritillaria chair, in flax linen, by John Derian Furniture Collection by Glisco Brothers from John Derian Dry Goods.