

[fun decorating]

MOM WAS RIGHT

Before they were designers, they learned from the best. Love you, moms!



Ariene with her mom, Betty

Mom was right! *Art can make a room*
“My mom hung art everywhere and saved up for special pieces, and it taught me how important art is for decorating,” says Charlotte, NC, designer Ariene Bethea, whose mother collected African and Asian works. After inheriting a Bernhardt modular velvet sofa from her, Ariene knew just what to do: Hang a '60s chinoiserie painting on silk above it.



Mom was right! *Every plaid has its place*
Caitlin Wilson's childhood home had a bit of a theme: “Mom had plaid drapes, plaid upholstery, and plaid pillows,” says the Dallas, TX, designer. “It felt Christmas-y to me then, but now I love how it easily mixes with other patterns and looks layered and chic. Using it around my home feels like a very refined, adult move.”



Caitlin with her mom, Kathy, and daughter Lucy



Orlando with his mom, Catherine



Mom was right! *You can't beat blue*
“We had the most beautiful collection of blue dishes when I was a kid,” says Orlando Soria, host of *Build Me Up* on discovery+. “When I helped my mom redo her kitchen, it needed a peacock blue island and light blue backsplash!” A chip off the old blue block, he went with aqua walls and a denim-hued bed in his Los Angeles home. “Blue feels both vibrant and soothing,” he says.

ARIENE'S ROOM: ANDREW SHERMAN; CAITLIN'S ROOM: KATIE NIXON; ORLANDO'S ROOM: ZEKE RUELAS

[fun decorating]



Courtney with her mom, Rowena



Mom was right! *It's cool to be calm*

Growing up, Courtney McLeod liked to duck into her mother's room to check out the Buddha sculpture on her dresser. "It gave her a sense of calm," she says. The New York City designer brought that zen to her own bedroom, with botanical Aux Abris wallpaper and a Buddha sculpture from an antiques store on her desk. "It brings me peace, too, and a closeness to my mom."

Mom was right! *Never stop reimagining*

Jessica Geller's mother rarely sent her to her room—Jessica was already there, redecorating. "My mom is a creative type and she encouraged my urges to reposition my bed or hang floating shelves," says the Essex Fells, NJ, designer. So when a Karl Springer table her mom passed along didn't work in the dining room, an inventive solution came naturally. "Mom suggested making our formal living space the dining room. I didn't second-guess her!"



Jessica with her mom, Cynthia

JESSICA'S ROOM: JACOB SNAVELY

[fun decorating]



Nate with his mom, Nancy

Mom was right! *Mix old and new*

“My mom was a designer, and as a kid I got dragged on endless trips to antique malls and flea markets,” says Nate Berkus. It paid off. Their home was fab, and he got into the thrill of the hunt. Nate and Jeremiah Brent, of *Nate & Jeremiah: Starting Over* on discovery+, created similar magic in their place in Los Angeles: “Nothing gives a room instant character like combining old and new pieces.”



19th-century chairs; 21st-century coffee table



Lucy with her mom, Margaret

Mom was right! *Style can tell a story*

“My mother always decorated with items she brought home from trips,” says Minneapolis, MN, designer Lucy Penfield, which made for great conversation pieces. “My favorite was a jewel-tone kimono that she hung from a bamboo rod.” Lucy did up her den in the same mode, with Mexican blankets as drapery and pillows from Guatemala. “They transport me back and make me happy. Plus, I’m carrying on a tradition!”