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# Dogs and Décor

Our pets are the ultimate and best accessory at home

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Julie Soefer* WRITTEN BY *Michael Brandow*

Most people love dogs these days. Even those who don't *like* them often claim they do for reasons of politeness. Perhaps the greatest advance for our best canine friends, who once lived in barns or were kept outside, has been their relatively recent acceptance in homes as pets and companions—or, better yet, for their own personal comfort, being “part of the family,” as their owners/parents say.

Dogs provide many comforts to the home, and yet some owners/parents feel compelled to make them blend in as they never would expect any other family member. Some people choose a type or breed of dog that will shed less, due to the children's allergies, they say, but often for fear of always having to vacuum. For the very neatness-conscious, keeping interiors looking pristine can mean selecting a dog whose coat color matches the rug and furniture; in this way, the stray dog hairs, which are inevitable, will be less noticeable. Sometimes, decorating and dog-buying are done in reverse order, as it was by one couple I know who bought a fashionable Weimaraner—and then did their entire Manhattan apartment in a strict scheme of black-and-white and fifty shades of grey. Wherever their pet went, he matched.

## PILLOW TALK

As a high-end residential interior designer, I focus on working with artisans to create unique, bespoke furniture, and accessories that suit my clients. My Lucky Dog House Series (shown above) features six pillows. My affection for sketching houses, my passion for color, and my love of dogs all blended together in this series. The pillows are whimsical, quirky, exude a folksy character, and they depict geometric house shapes. Each is constructed of preshrunk organic cotton canvas, and is adorned with a contrasting zipper and zipper pull. The pillows are all hand-stitched with LOVE in the U.S.A. [janetgust.com](http://janetgust.com) —*Janet Gust*