

## A DRAB INTERIOR IS NOW RICHLY COLORED TO HIGHLIGHT ART

**S**an Francisco interior designer Claudia Juestel, a tireless participant in and committee member of Dining by Design, an AIDS fundraiser sponsored by Elle Decor magazine, found herself at square one when her Christmas tree caught fire. It destroyed her entire Nob Hill apartment and the antique tableware in her collection.

"Everything was lost except a couple of bedside tables," said Juestel, who fled with just one heirloom painting from her Austrian homeland.

Undeterred, she found a condominium near Union Square in a 1925 Spanish Revival high-rise by architect John C. Hladik, allegedly built for Bohemian and Pacific Union Club members who needed discreet getaways.

Her new 780-square-foot, one-bedroom space — smaller than what she was used to — prompted her to find multiple uses for every space. First, since the walls are of concrete, phone and lighting wires were concealed in soffits. Then, unnecessary doors were removed for a more open plan, and a remodeled galley kitchen now has twin galleys that share the dining area. In the bedroom, an antique armoire provides more storage than a built-in closet could.

While Juestel works in the open-plan living room, her assistant's "desk" is the glass-topped dining table.

The formerly sponge-painted walls are now vibrant shades of saffron and gold to highlight new objects, some bought at Cost Plus or directly from Asia and Africa.

"My ram's-head dining chairs are from India. I bought them for a client, who gave them to me after the fire," says Juestel, who makes her



dining room — the scene of many intimate dinner parties — work hardest of all.

*Zahid Sardar is the Chronicle design editor. E-mail him your ideas for Take Two at [zsardar@sfchronicle.com](mailto:zsardar@sfchronicle.com).*

## Resources

**Interior design: Claudia Juestel**  
Adeeni Design Group  
P. O. Box 641483,  
San Francisco  
(415) 928-4685  
[www.Adeenidesigngroup.com](http://www.Adeenidesigngroup.com)

Cost Plus World Market  
2552 Taylor St., San Francisco  
(415) 928-6200



## A collector's palette

< Framing objets d'art with color >



### THE CHANDELIER

A large Lotus chandelier by Roost in Claudia Juestel's living room casts a soft glow unlike other overhead lighting which she generally avoids when she designs an interior. The dark and striking fixture is powered by new wiring concealed in soffits made to look like wood ceiling beams. \$630 at Period George, 7 Clement St., San Francisco; (415) 752-1900.



### DINNER PLATES

Cheerful Austrian Yellow Stripe hand-painted dinner plates, replicas of the 17th century Gmundner dishes Juestel grew up with, still seem contemporary in an eclectic table setting filled with grass place mats from Cost Plus in San Francisco and objects from around the globe. Gmundner Keramik plates, \$39 each, at Landhaus, 25 Tudor City Plac Suite 1305, New York, NY.



### CARPET BY ADEENI

Avril, a softly striped Nepalese rug of New Zealand wool recently designed by Juestel for her Adeeni Rug Collection, works in interiors that have modern as well as traditional furnishings. The mixture of warm and cool colors complements her chocolate brown stained oak wood floors. \$5,200 for an 8-by-9 foot rug through Adeeni Design Group (415) 928-4685; [www.adeenidesigngroup.com](http://www.adeenidesigngroup.com).



### MERCURY GLASS LAMP BASE

When Juestel found a vintage lambsk lamp shade painted with henna at the Alameda flea market, she looked for a perfect base until she found one by Roost, made of blown glass lined with gleaming mercury, which complements the backlit henna patterns on the shade. \$225 at Period George.