



AT EASE

SUSIE CRIPPEN'S RUSTIC HANCOCK PARK ABODE IS A WELCOME EXPRESSION OF THE FASHION DESIGNER'S SINGULAR TAKE ON CALIFORNIA CASUAL

BY AMELIA FLEETWOOD PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAUL RAESIDE



The industrial wood forms are some of the few things that Crippen brought from her previous home. Stilnovo light from JF Chen. OPPOSITE Refinished Louis the 14th-style sofa by Channon Roe (upholstered in 1950s French army fabric) mixes perfectly with a weathered metal coffee table from Obsolete in Venice.



Susie Crippen

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HEN SUSIE CRIPPEN, THE CO-FOUNDER and former creative director of J Brand jeans, now creative director of Crippen, stepped into her Hancock Park house for the first time, she instantly knew she was home.

“Get ready to fall in love!” warned the realtor, as she opened the front door of the secluded, turnkey, 1913 bungalow set back from the street, surrounded and hidden by groves of bamboo. Crippen was immediately attracted to the open floor plan, exposed wood beam ceilings and the light and airy feel (the house was remodeled in the 1980s). She was also struck by the small-town vibe of the Hancock Park neighborhood with its old-fashioned, wide, tree-lined streets, strolling couples and plenty of kids on bikes.

Crippen moved in in 2008 and set about making the house her own with the help of her good friend of more than 15 years, design consultant Channon Roe of In the Field Interiors. The two had a mutual friend, and actually lived across the street from each other when they first met. A man of many hats (surfer, actor, designer), Roe, a native Californian, was always keenly interested in interior design. He worked for family friend and famed designer Michael S. Smith in his early days in Los Angeles.

At first Roe was hired just to remodel the downstairs powder room, which really served as a barometer for their compatibility in taking on the house in its entirety. It was a success and from there they set their goals: to instill complete calmness into the house, making it comfortable, livable, workable and an unpretentious place to live.

“Working with Channon opened my eyes to a whole other level of creativity,” Crippen explains. “Designing clothes is an expression of my aesthetic, pure and simple, which is very similar to the way [we collaborated].”

Roe’s unique approach of steering away from any one specific style reads both eclectic and cohesive. Drawing from his early influence of California beach life, he tends to incorporate his favorite iconic time periods in design, namely the ‘60s and ‘70s. He says, “Mixing the high design and functionality of these midcentury modern pieces with some much older European elements, the house begins to take shape and a great story can be told.”

Roe also incorporated natural, earthy elements: cowhides, antlers, leather, weathered metal and plenty of wood. He included Crippen’s lucky number four (the day she was born) throughout the house. He also loves the element of surprise: In her sunroom, he presented her with a sofa by Brazilian designer Percival Lafer as a *fait accompli*. Crippen was shocked and reluctant at first, but now she admits that it is her favorite thing in the entire house other than her two dogs. Crippen, wearing her favorite, vintage Levi’s, and gray cashmere sweater by Soyer says: “This project was about bringing my taste to life. This house really does look and feel like me!”

These days she is hard at work, collaborating with her design team on her new line. Meetings take place at the dining room table, and even the back deck and front porch are jokingly dubbed “conference rooms.” The garage has been turned into the Crippen office/design studio. The house, in its inspiring, tranquil splendor, has actually come to represent all things Crippen—reflecting the clothes she makes and how she lives.

“Good design starts with a conversation, and ends as a physical manifestation of that conversation,” says Crippen. “It’s a fascinating process, living in a space and watching it come alive around me. I get to live and work in beautiful surroundings. I am so appreciative of that.” •



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Three midcentury bar stools from Nickey•Kehoe and a sofa by Percival Lafer from The Window. In the guest room, a midcentury dresser and Noguchi lamp. The number four is found throughout the home. Roe always perfectly mixing: petrified-wood side tables, 19th-century Gustavian stools, an early 20th-century English tufted wing chair with an amazing patina to help bring out the natural elements, a 1920s jeweler’s lamp from Galerie Half and a classic Moroccan rug from Lawrence of La Brea. Planters from Rolling Greens and a vintage bench sit poolside.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Antique silverware gifted from Crippen's mother along with plates from Jar and napkins from Tortoise set the tone for perfect outdoor entertaining. Updated master bathroom complete with a giant clamshell and elegant leaning mirror for decor. Primitive American bench from Obsolete on the porch. Live-edge table custom-made and designed by Roe paired with Gustavian wood dining chairs from Galerie Half for the perfect free form mix of rustic elegance. OPPOSITE Matteo linens mixed with vintage Romanian grain sack textiles as an oversized pillow in place of a headboard in the master bedroom. A 1970s Moroccan rug from Nickey•Kehoe.

