

FEATURED PROJECT

For the 2015 San Francisco Decorator Showcase, Brittany Haines conceived “his office,” which was anchored by a custom-made ebonized wood daybed on one side, and a shou sugi ban desk on the other. The former was designed by Haines, and inspired by an “Anglo-Indian period daybed that had scrolled arms, a caned seat, reeded apron, as well as intricate carved and fluted details,” she says. By simplifying the lines, she achieved a contemporary design that contrasts the curves of a nearby leather-covered armchair.

Against a setting that includes iron-framed windows and herringbone floors, Haines introduced layers of texture: white drapery featuring a Cowtan & Tout wool, an oversized-knit cashmere throw from Jesse Black and a “well-loved” antique rug from DZINE. A floor lamp by Jonathan Browning, side tables from Coup d’Etat and an Ian Kimmerly abstract from Dolby Chadwick Gallery round out the design scheme.



BRITTANY HAINES

www.authenticitybdesigns.com

Growing up with an interior designer father, Brittany Haines often tagged along during his visits to New York’s Design Center, on buying trips and to client installations. “My first internship involved assisting with the setup and greeting guests in one of his showhouse rooms when I was 16,” she says.

Even with her early exposure to the industry, it was a personal experience that convinced Haines that design was her calling: When the family domicile was destroyed in a fire, she gained a greater understanding of the importance of home, and she later witnessed her parents’ renovation of their next house.

After studying design arts at Lehigh University and textile design in Sydney, Haines decamped to San Francisco, where she worked for designers such as Kendall Wilkinson and Catherine Kwong. In 2013, Haines hung out her own shingle, with the name Authenticity B. Designs. Since then, she has been turning out interiors with varying vibes — tailored for each client, while balancing tones, textures and artful accents.

“I don’t want to be known for a specific aesthetic or approach to design, but rather be



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sought out for a feeling that my designs create,” says Haines.

Q: Designer whose work you admire?

BH: Ilse Crawford. Her spaces have an incredible sense of reasonability. Never do I feel as though her designs have been compromised by this consistency. In fact, in most cases, I feel as though this strong element is what enhances her designs. Her team intentionally works to create a backdrop for the life that will happen in the

space, rather than to create a statement piece.

Q: An essential trait for a well-designed space?

BH: Every space should have a conversation piece — something with a great story! One of my best friends does ceramics as a hobby. She made me a white matte ceramic tray that I keep next to my stove to hold salt, oil, etc. When I am more formally entertaining, it is the perfect cheeseboard. I love this piece because it is not only beautiful in my home, but it has a story and I personally connect it to someone in my life who is very talented and quite special to me.

Q: What is your dream project?

BH: What comes to mind first is the fulfilling relationship that I would have with a client. I envision a cross-pollination between designer and client. I would love to work with someone who has an exquisite, curated collection of pieces or interesting objects. In addition, I would love to work on a home with distinctive character that inspires the design results.

Q: Best design advice you’ve ever received?

BH: Never stop editing.

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