



▲ Nicole Fuller



▲ Kelly Finley



▲ Alyssa Kapito

Welcome to the Dollhouse

For 11 cutting-edge designers, the challenge was tiny: Transform a 2' x 4' Victorian dollhouse. The results, however, were larger than life.

By Hadley Keller. Photographs by Chris Mottalini.

▼ Jenny Dina Kirschner



▼ Sasha Bikoff



▼ Enea White



STYLIST: SARA RODRIGUES

Jenny Dina Kirschner

JDK Interiors @jdkinteriors

“When I do things, I go all out,” says Kirschner of her incredibly detailed house, which boasts a double-height chandelier made from beads, hand-painted Porter Teleo wallpaper, and a mini bed cover she quilted herself.



THIS STAIRCASE RUNNER IS A PIECE OF SAMUEL & SONS TRIM.



FAKE
GRAPES = INSTANT
BAUBLE
CHANDELIER.

Kelly Finley

Joy Street Design @joystreetdesign

Finley's "Black Girl Magic"-themed dollhouse includes a wallpaper featuring historical portraits of black women, a cork inspiration board (the "posters" are stickers!), and a bathroom wall with real tiles individually placed by hand.

Sasha Bikoff

Sasha Bikoff Interior Design @sashabikoff

"It's my Caribbean fantasy," says Bikoff. Playful colors and patterns go high-design with the addition of tiny fine art and miniature boiserie that Bikoff painted gold. The bedding? Made from samples of her fabric for Versace Home.



BENT-METAL FURNITURE WAS SCORED ON ETSY—A TREASURE TROVE FOR DOLLHOUSE DECOR.

See these (and more!) come to life at housebeautiful.com/dollhouse-beautiful


FABRIC SWATCHES MAKE PERFECT DOLLHOUSE RUGS.

PHOTOGRAPHERS (BACKGROUNDS): THIS PAGE: CHINAFAÇE. OPPOSITE PAGE: VICKI SMITH

Eneia White

Eneia White Interiors @eneiawhiteinteriors

An avid dollhouse decorator, White used Kelly Wearstler's Graffito for Lee Jofa wallpaper (printed to 1/12-scale) as a jumping-off point. The waterfall-edge kitchen counter was made from paper and hand-painted to have "marble" veining.



THE GREAT PAINT DEBATE

Is there a design topic more polarizing than paint? Everyone's got an opinion, but getting both sides of the argument will help you define your POV.

LIGHT vs. DARK

▼ DESIGN BY MARY PATTON



Pro Picks: Light Paints



SETTING PLASTER NO. 231
Farrow & Ball



KEEPSAKES PPG1040-2
PPG



NOVEMBER RAIN 2142-60
Benjamin Moore

DARK!

"If you go too dark in a small room, it will feel like it's closing in on you."

—Ashley Moore
@moorehouseinteriors

LIGHT!

"When sunlight pours into a space, the right light paint can evoke a divine glow."

—Jenny Dina Kirschner
@jdkinteriors

▼ DESIGN BY NICOLE FULLER



"Dark colors recede and actually make a space feel larger. Plus, I'm all about the drama."

—Caitlin Murray
@blacklacquerdesign

DARK!

"If a room is really small, you are not tricking anyone with paint. Make it moody! I'd rather spaces are interesting and small than still small and boring."

—Kate Lester @klinteriors

Pro Picks: Dark Paints



NIGHTSPOT C2-743
C2 Paint



URBANE BRONZE SW 7048
Sherwin-Williams



CURRENT MOOD
Clare

The Movie Theater Theory: "You know when you leave a movie theater in the middle of the day and your eyes can't adjust? The same thing happens when you are in a light-filled room painted a dark color. Dark colors work amazingly well in dark rooms; bright rooms should be painted bright colors!" —Andrew Howard

MATTE vs. Glossy



“I like the romance and drama of extremes—like a gloss so high you can do your makeup in it.”
—Sean Leffers @seanderlust

▲ DESIGN BY VICTORIA HAGAN

Pro Picks: High-Gloss Paints



SUPER WHITE OC-152
Impervex Latex Enamel High Gloss
[Benjamin Moore](#)



REMBRANDT RED 1002
Hollandlac Brilliant
[Fine Paints of Europe](#)



TOMCAT V114-3
Interior/Exterior High-Gloss Enamel
[Valspar](#)



“High gloss is out. Eggshell and flat are in.”
—Kathryn M. Ireland @kathrynmireland

▲ DESIGN BY KATE LESTER

Pro Picks: Matte Paints



ELEPHANT'S BREATH NO. 229
Estate Emulsion
[Farrow & Ball](#)



REFUGE SW 6228
Emerald Interior Acrylic Latex Paint Flat
[Sherwin-Williams](#)



BROOK GREEN N410-2
Interior Matte
[Behr Marquee](#)

MATTE!

“The higher the sheen, the more problems you are going to see in the drywall.”

—Andrew Howard @andrewjhow

GLOSSY!

“Flat paint is the worst—especially if you have little ones. It scuffs with the slightest touch and is so hard to maintain.”

—Maggie Griffin @maggiegriffindesign

What About Eggshell? “Perhaps my least favorite. It doesn’t absorb light well, nor does it impart the impact of a high-gloss. In the end, you are left with walls awkwardly reflecting light. **Many brands offer washable paints in flat or matte finishes; try one of those instead.**” —Stefani Stein @stefanisteinla



And Other Hot Takes!

DESIGN BY TAYLOR BLISS

“You should splurge on paint for kitchen cabinets and front doors, since they’re used so frequently, and are exposed to the elements on a day-to-day basis.”

—Abbe Fenimore @studioten25

“Choose colors that make you look good. Let’s face it, very few people look good in yellow.”

—Martyn Lawrence Bullard @martynbullard

“I can say this as a millennial: I’m very over soft peachy-pink. Which is a shame because it was a favorite before it oversaturated the market!”

—Caitlin Murray



DESIGN BY ANTHONY GEORGE HOME

“Primer is an absolute must.

Think of it as a nail polish base coat; it’s necessary for longevity and for the paint to properly adhere to the surface.” —Jenny Dina Kirschner

“Expensive paint is only worth it if you want the color to change as the light changes

(this is due to its rich pigmentation). In rooms with light walls and few windows, it is better to use a color that will stay more consistent.”

—Lilse McKenna @lilsemckennahome



DESIGN BY KINGSTON LAFFERTY

“Don’t be afraid to use multiple colors in a space! People are scared that it will look too crazy or not cohesive, but I am obsessed.”

—Anthony Gianacacos @anthonygeorgehome

“Paired with soft neutrals and natural wood, **black paint is drop-dead chic.** There’s something soothing and cavernous about it.” —Marissa Zajack @zajack

“Statement walls are for people who can’t make up their mind.

Paint the whole room—if you get tired of it, you can always repaint.” —Andrew Howard

“Paint is honestly tricky! A color is never going to look the same as it does on a screen—or even in another home.”

—Jean Stoffer @jeanstofferdesign

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