

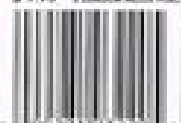
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Indie redeigner Jeanne Connolly nestles in with her furnishings at Hinterland Art Space in Denver, where she sometimes sets up a temporary shop she calls Pop+Up Eco-Boutique. *Opposite:* Connolly gave her first artist loft a funky makeover with vintage pieces she redesigned.

Necessity is the mother of invention, or, in the case of Jeanne Connolly, reinvention. Nine years ago while moving into her first apartment, reality and inspiration struck. "I had a tight budget and starting combing thrift stores and garage sales for furnishings," says Connolly, who soon discovered a knack for redesigning found treasures into bohemian works of art. Today, the self-proclaimed "indie designer" has turned that talent into a career as the owner of Denver-based Vintage Renewal, for which she redesigns vintage pieces with upcycled fabrics to create high-end, sustainable furniture. And in a natural segue, she's been developing an eco-fashion line with the Denver Design Incubator that she'll launch in July; citing the 1920s flapper and boho chic woman of the '70s as her muses, she searches for vintage clothing to deconstruct and recreate into fresh, modern designs. "There is so much potential to be found in things from the past," says Connolly. "I like to think of myself as saving the earth, one redesign at a time." [vintagerenewal.com](http://vintagerenewal.com); 720.984.7914

The vibrant African prints of fashion designer Duro Glowu appeal to Connolly's colorful design senses.



## MATERIAL GIRL

# JEANNE CONNOLLY



### Dream collaboration:

Anthropologie—yes, please! That would be an absolute dream, followed closely by a collaboration with ABC Carpet & Home.

### Keep an eye on:

London-based fashion designer Duro Olowu. I'm finally seeing more fashion designers who aren't afraid to get really extreme with their bold pattern choices.

### Tools of the trade:

An industrial-grade Pfaff walking foot sewing machine, a staple gun and an air compressor.

### I'm reading:

*The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living*, by the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler.

### Eames or Mackintosh?

Eames. He was reportedly dismissed from Washington University in St. Louis because his ideas were "too modern." His forward thinking later led to inventing a new technique for molding wood that still distinguishes his distinct furniture style.