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Inside the United States of Tara Design

Francine Gardner, Kara Mann and Surfacedesign bring all of Tara's alters home to roost in chic comfort.

This article originally appeared in Metropolitan Home

Tara spends her days enhancing her clients' houses with the beautiful murals she paints. Her own home? Now, that's a different story. She has a terrific husband and two great kids; together they've built a pretty nice life. But all of that is subject to change whenever one of her alter egos (Buck, T, and Alice) arrive on their doorstep. Multiple personalities wage a daily turf war in her mind, leaving Tara too exhausted to worry about her living space.

From the most whimsical dining space to the chicest shed, interior designers Francine Gardner and Kara Mann aim to restore the peace by crafting spaces with all of Tara's alters in mind.

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Francine Gardner's *United States of Tara Duplex Apartment*

Located beneath the stairs is a haven where Tara or one of her alters can take refuge. **Francine Gardner** makes use of this off-neglected space by building a platform daybed. Custom pillows in moody shades of purple add comfort to the plush futon from **Interieurs**. Above it, a painting by Spanish artist Zush, on loan from a private collector, casts a watchful eye.

Photographer: Adam Chinitz

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Small Room, Smartly Styled

Like Tara herself, the living room has many layers to its composition. Its focal point is undoubtedly a five-foot-round painting by Spanish artist Zuch displaying hundreds of intently staring eyes. Francine Gardener's *Alain sofa* and *chaise*, covered in a **Robert Allen Radiant Velvet** fabric, have deep, plush seats and wide armrests. Robert Kuo's *NIU* white-bronze **drum stool** adds a metallic touch. And Anji Mountain's **ultrasoft bamboo rug** contributes an eco element.

Photographer: Adam Chinitz

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Tara's Cocoon Room

When she's had enough of her alters, Tara can retreat to this dark, moody chamber and draw the drapes. The oval daybed was custom designed not for stretching out on but for curling up in the fetal position.

Photographer: Antoine Bootz

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The Light Fantastic

At the stop of the stairs in Tara's duplex apartment, visitors are greeted by a spectacular chandelier designed by Francine Gardner. Strings of Swarovski crystals cascade from ceiling to floor to puddle on the colorful wool carpet.

Photographer: Antoine Bootz

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Think Pink Decor

In Tara's mind, nothing is simply black or white so Gardner has designed a colorful dining/rec room to continue that theme. The black 19th-century French industrial cabinet and white draperies from Window Mode anchor the space, but it's Liora Manné's *Poeme* rug that demands attention. Written across its felt surface in hot-pink script are lines from a famous French children's poem that encourages readers to "keep dancing." An industrial table doubles as a dining/game table and is surrounded by rose-hued Roca poufs.

Photographer: Antoine Bootz

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Power of Illumination

When natural light pours through these Window Mode sheer curtains, it transforms the mood of this room from heavy to light. Glass votive pendants from [CB2](#), filled with sand and flowers, are suspended from the frame of this mirror on which a colorful reflection is seen.

Photographer: Antoine Bootz

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