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SHOPPING WITH LAURA BOHN

All in a Daybed's Work



Emily Andrews for The New York Times

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Laura Bohn perches on the arm of the Dmitriy daybed at Dmitriy & Co. in Chelsea.

By TIM McKEOUGH
Published: October 30, 2013

After three decades of designing homes in the city, from expansive lofts to space-constrained apartments, Laura Bohn has come to appreciate the versatility of a good daybed.

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Daybeds are useful in big and small spaces alike, she said, because most of them are open on both sides, which means that when you sit on them you can face in either direction — and that's useful not just in an open space like a loft but also in a cramped apartment where every piece of furniture has to do double duty.

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And “if you need an extra bed,” she continued, “it also makes a nice addition.” Most daybeds are about the size of a twin bed, but “they don’t look bed-like,” she said, so they can be used almost anywhere. “They’re also easy to accessorize with pillows and throws.”

Ms. Bohn, 73, who studied design at the Pratt Institute in the 1970s after a career as a model, said she sometimes has supersized daybeds custom-made for her clients. “I usually do them as long built-in banquettes,” she said. “It’s the same idea as a daybed, but longer.”

But ready-made daybeds can be just as good. In search of a few examples, she began at the Dmitriy & Co. showroom in Chelsea, where she admired the Dmitriy daybed, a model with rolled arms and turned walnut feet, upholstered in Belgian linen. “It’s big and it’s long — a real bed,” Ms. Bohn said. “It has real presence.”

At ABC Carpet & Home, she pointed out the Mysticism parallel chaise, upholstered in a vibrant green fabric that was intentionally imperfect — a showpiece that was also a practical choice. “You could never destroy it,” she said, because it already has a worn-in look. “It’s kid- and dog-proof.”

For a piece that doesn’t call attention to itself, she liked the Jackson studio sofa from Room & Board, which has tightly tailored cushions and slender arms. “It’s totally plain,” she said, approvingly. “As clean-lined and simple as you can make it.”

At West Elm, she was unconvinced by a daybed on the floor, but after a salesperson showed her other models on the company’s website, she was won over by the Nailhead Trim daybed.

An upholstered frame designed to hold a twin mattress as the seat, it was attractive and nicely detailed, she noted. And “the nail heads look fantastic.”

But even better was the price tag: about \$1,100. For a multifunctional piece of furniture, she said, “it’s fantastically priced.”

A version of this article appears in print on October 31, 2013, on page D6 of the New York edition with the headline: All in a Daybed's Work.

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
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Emily Andrews for The New York Times

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Laura Bohn perches on the arm of the Dmitry daybed at Dmitry & Co. in Chelsea.



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Paramount daybed; \$1,519.20 on sale at Blu Dot, (612) 782-1844, bludot.com.



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Dmitriy daybed in Belgian linen; from \$11,600 at Dmitriy & Co., (212) 243-4800, dmitriyco.com.



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Maison daybed with trundle bed; \$2,295 at Restoration Hardware, (800) 910-9836, restorationhardware.com.



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Jackson studio sofa in white leather; \$2,599 at Room & Board, (800) 301-9720, roomandboard.com.



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Nailhead Trim daybed; \$1,099 at West Elm, (888) 922-4119, westelm.com.



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Sorrento woven sea grass daybed; \$1,295 at Williams-Sonoma, (877) 812-6235, Williams-sonoma.com.



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Elton tufted daybed; \$1,299 at West Elm, (888) 922-4119, westelm.com.




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Mysticism parallel chaise; \$4,995 at ABC Carpet & Home, (212) 473-3000, abchome.com.


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