



BEDROOM

This Headboard Hack Was Practically Made for Small Bedrooms

The result? Cool hotel vibes.

BY REBECCA DECZYNSKI

MARKET BY JULIA STEVENS

Published on May 8, 2020



PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCIS AMIAND; DESIGN BY MAISON SARAH LAVOINE

Deliciously crisp linens and chocolates left on pillows aside, one of the most satisfying parts of a hotel room stay is the sconces built into the headboard, which maximize space on your nightstands and look oh-so-luxe while they're at it.

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According to designer **Tina Ramchandani**, it's a project that's all about functionality. "The issue with small nightstands is that you can only fit small table lamps on them or use skinny floor lamps, which tend to get in the way. And when you place sconces over your headboard, the light hits you in a way that's not totally comfortable," she says. "With this placement, your room looks bigger and the light is more diffused."

Ramchandani starts her custom headboards by sketching them out and deciding on sconce placement. Then she calls in an electrician to install junction boxes where the sconces will go, and an upholsterer cuts holes in the headboard that fit the lights precisely (for a nonupholstered option, you'd work with a carpenter or get handy with your own tools). Installing light switches right under the lamps also adds to their practicality. These projects are proof that the extra effort is well worth it.

The Glamorous Retreat



This bedroom by Ramchandani was designed to feel like a luxe hotel—and the custom green velvet headboard is key to that effect. These sconces have an extra layer of frosted glass that make the light even gentler.

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The Ply Panel



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAN TORRES

A custom headboard can also help you work around architectural quirks or annoyances. At [Dreamers Welcome](#), owner Stephan Watts used plywood wings to simultaneously frame a window and a bed. Small globe scones free up space on their built-in shelves.

The Smooth Ridges



At *Mollie's Motel and Diner*—a property by Soho House—slatted wainscoting is a triple threat, working as a headboard, a platform for simple ball-shaped sconces, and, of course, a wall decal. With its detailed texture, there's no need to overcomplicate the rest.

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The French Fix



PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCIS AMIAND; DESIGN BY MAISON SARAH LAVOINE

This eclectic yet streamlined Parisian space by [Maison Sarah Lavoine](#) uses a full-wall headboard to make an otherwise simple bedroom look tailored. Small sconces perfect for late-night reading are a practical detail, while quaint table lamps serve a more decorative purpose on the bed's built-in shelves.

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This Couple Proves There's Lots of Love in the

Greeting Card Biz

Partners in design.

BY **REBECCA DECZYNSKI**

STYLING **JULIA STEVENS**

Published on June 6, 2020





PHOTOGRAPHY BY CODY GUILFOYLE

Consider the greeting card: sweet, sent with love, and cherished—quite often for years to come. When it comes to the cards designed by Ashley Molesso and Chessie Needham for their stationery brand, [Ash + Chess](#), there's even more love in the mix. The couple founded their company after just a year and a half of dating and continually find new ways to help other people say "I love you."



How To Get A Sculpted Jawline (Simple DIY Remedy)

Their work is vivid and playful—as if “Lisa Frank and Rifle Paper Co. had millennial lesbian daughters,” Molesso jokes. With rainbows to go around, plenty of feminist mottoes, and a healthy splash of neon pink in virtually everything they offer, Molesso and Needham creates cards, prints, accessories, and even wallpaper with a perspective just as bold as they are. Below, they share their secrets to running a business with your significant other.

How did you meet?

Ashley Molesso: We met on a dating app called Her in the summer of 2015. I was actually skeptical about meeting up with him because, up until that point, I literally had the worst dates ever from the Internet.

Chessie Needham: We went on a first date that we later found out we were both hesitant about. I had another date lined up that night, and Ash almost canceled on me. Luckily, we went! We just ended up grabbing a drink and then walking around and sitting in McCarren Park for hours. We didn’t want the date to end. It just took off from there.

Molesso: Oh, and he taught me which parts of grass you can eat. So we ate grass in the park. Looking back on this, it sounds really gross, but it was so weird that I was like: He is pretty much the one.

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How did you start working together?





PHOTOGRAPHY BY CODY GUILFOYLE

Needham: Ash took me to walk the Stationery Show in 2016 and kept talking about this dream she had to own a stationery company. I couldn't really wrap my head around it, but I encouraged her anyway. Then somehow we decided that we'd work on it together, and she taught me to hone my art skills. We started off with just six cards, printed 50, and spent \$2 per card (way too much for a card when they wholesale at \$2.50 and retail for \$5). I was really confused at how we'd ever make money or build a company around it.

Molesso: It just kind of happened. He was really interested in my art background—interested enough to actually want to learn from me. So at first, I taught him how to draw a cowboy hat and then we moved quickly to making designs in Illustrator. And then, not even a year into the relationship, I took him to the Stationery Show to show him what life could be like if I started a company. It seemed like a really fun and exciting way to make art affordable on our end and affordable for consumers and be able to get cute and powerful messages out to the world.

How would each of you describe what the other person does?





PHOTOGRAPHY BY CODY GUILFOYLE

Needham: I would say Ash is the beauty behind the company and I'm the brains—just kidding! Ash is really the art director and the main one. She only works one day a week part-time, and I work full-time at a high school, so she has a lot more time for Ash + Chess right now than I do. That will change soon though. We both plan on working full-time by next fall. Ash can churn out five cards in the time that I can design one, so she designs more than I do.



How To Get A Sculpted Jawline (Simple DIY Remedy)

Molesso: When Chess isn't worrying about his 9-to-5 job as a special education high school teacher, he's coming up with the best concepts for more of our text-based greeting cards. "Pretty Much My Fave" is one of our top sellers and one of the first cards he designed. He is extremely smart, so he brings a lot of "word stuff" to the table, while I am the most visual and creative one. Also, Chess is really good at being professional and dealing with customer service. He's a really fast worker and can create invoices quicker than I can. He's good at business, and I'm just here for the rainbows.

What is your brand aesthetic and how does it differ from your own sense of style?





PHOTOGRAPHY BY CODY GUILFOYLE

Needham: I'll let Ash describe our brand aesthetic because she really loves comparisons. Ash's designs are unique, but I don't know exactly how to describe it. They don't look like anybody else's to me. Ash dresses like she works at Ash + Chess.

She does.

Molesso: Our brand aesthetic is as if Lisa Frank and Rifle Paper Co. had millennial lesbian daughters. Lisa in the sense that our color palette is very retro and nostalgia invoking, with bold velvet poster vibes and neon colors. Rifle in the sense that we feel like we've hit a niche spot of design that no one has touched on before. Chessie's aesthetic is more '60s, '70s vibes, focusing on texts and fonts in a cleaner design style, while mine is a more hand-drawn, illustrated look. Chess's physical aesthetic is "tough lesbian," so it really cracks me up when he wears pink at our shows.



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Are there any rules you follow to separate work and your romantic relationship?

Needham: We started the company pretty early in our relationship, so it's kind of always been there. I think it helps that we are also best friends, so we just love to spend time together. We usually set aside time for just us, but we also both really love Ash + Chess, so it doesn't really feel like work when we're doing it. The only rule I have is that Ash can't talk to me about Ash + Chess when I'm getting ready for my other job in the morning, but she breaks it a lot.

Molesso: To put a timeline on this, we've been together for three and a half years and have had the company for almost two years. So we've been business partners for most

of our relationship. It feels really natural that it's already incorporated into our relationship—it feels like our baby. We both put so much work and love into it that we are literally creating something, and every day it brings us closer together. I do admit that sometimes I don't know when to not talk about work and I only realize it when Chess tells me to stop because he's just dealt with high school kids for 10 hours. So we still have some work to do on boundaries (I do), but we're not getting a divorce anytime soon.

How do you push past creative roadblocks?

Needham: Usually just time—sometimes we'll go a month without designing anything new and then it just hits us and we design six cards in one day. Also, looking at other favorite artists is really helpful. There are so many artists we admire, and checking out their Instagram is always inspirational to me.

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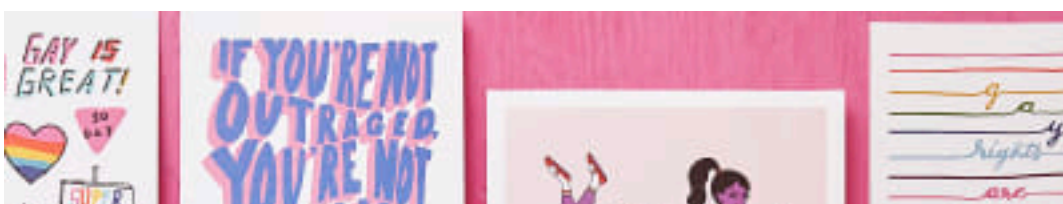
Molesso: This is probably not the best advice for people in this situation, but I usually wait it out. It's so hard to force something and it's usually not your best work when you're under pressure. So even if it might be last minute or nearing a deadline, sometimes you really just have to wait. Sometimes, when I'm in a creative rut, I take to

Pinterest and go to Instagram and check out what all of my favorite artists are doing to get some ideas flowing. It's always inspiring to see how other people are progressing their design style, and it inspires me to try new things and go outside my comfort zone.

What should couples know before they start a business together?



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CODY GUILFOYLE





PHOTOGRAPHY BY CODY GUILFOYLE

Needham: Make sure you really like each other and want to spend all your time together.

Molesso: Air out all your dirty laundry because committing to starting a business together is like getting married. Trust is really important, and when you're putting your own money and your time and livelihood on the table, you should know for sure that this is what you want and that you feel comfortable doing it with the other person. Lucky for us, we got most of our fights out in the first year, and now that we've been together for a while, we have built up this type of relationship where if we disagree on something, we know that we will get past it.



What's your favorite thing about working with each other? What's the most annoying thing about working with each other?

Needham: My favorite thing is that we get to be together and it's a unique bond. We get to share successes and excitement in a different way. Nothing is very annoying, so I guess the most important thing is that Ash will talk shop at inopportune times—like when I'm literally walking out the door to go to work.

Molesso: My favorite thing about working together is that if I tell Chess he did something wrong, I don't feel bad about it. Because I know he'll still love me. Also, if he ever gets annoyed with me, it doesn't really hurt my feelings as much as it would if it were someone else, like a friend or regular business partner. I don't mind criticism from Chess because I know he has the best intentions when giving feedback. The most annoying thing is that I wish Chess worked on it full-time with me.

This story originally ran in February 2019 as part of [Partners in Design](#), a series that celebrates creative couples who work together.

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Here's How Etsy Is Supporting the Black Lives Matter Movement

Including a list of small businesses from which to buy.

BY **ELLY LEAVITT**

Published on June 4, 2020



COURTESY OF ETSY

There are many ways to support the Black Lives Matter movement: You can protest, contact your local officials, and donate to organizations working to end systemic racism and police brutality. Plenty of **small businesses** are stepping up by contributing

proceeds and matching donations, and now larger companies are doing the same. Etsy CEO Josh Silverman [announced this week](#) that the digital marketplace is donating a total of \$1 million to two organizations working for criminal justice reform and assisting Black-led institutions: the [Equal Justice Initiative](#) and [Borealis Philanthropy's Black-Led Movement Fund](#). Silverman said the company is matching employee donations, as well.

Etsy is also helping customers more directly support the Black makers and designers on its platform via a [curated editors' picks page](#). Head there to start shopping: From [Omi Woods's](#) beautiful dainty jewelry to Netherlands-based [Studio Nom](#), which is offering a virtual [bottle-making class](#), there's a lot to peruse. If an empty corner of your home could use a cheery print or colorful lamp, we have some suggestions:

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You can check out all of Etsy's suggestions [here](#).

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This Candy-Themed Wedding Was Every Bit as

Sweet as It Sounds

Guests jumped into a pool of sprinkles at the end.

BY ALYSSA SHELASKY

Published on June 4, 2020



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENN EMERLING; EVENT PLANNING BY **BE HITCHED**

This story originally appeared in the Weddings issue of Domino. [Subscribe](#) to be the first to receive each issue.

The Museum of Ice Cream was the obvious wedding choice for Catherine Meyer, a first-grade teacher, and Sydney Meckler, a pediatric nurse practitioner—two raging sweet-tooths whose relationship has been celebrated with dessert hunting and candy consumption, and who got engaged over DIY sundaes on their Oakland, California, deck. They just didn't know it right away.

Their wedding was *supposed* to take place at Dawn Ranch in Guerneville, California, but three months before the date, the brides were told the event couldn't happen due to extreme flood damage. Did they freak out? Not really! "We felt bad for the ranch, disappointed for us, and then we just had to laugh," recalls Sydney. "We both work with kids who have experienced trauma," says Catherine. "So when you see people going through really hard times every day, it puts things in perspective. This was not the worst that could happen to a person."



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENN EMERLING; EVENT PLANNING BY **BE HITCHED**.

Still, with weeks to go and 200 people on the guest list, the couple scrambled. They landed on the San Francisco Film Centre for the ceremony and dinner, and then they dreamed up the cherry on top: a reception at the Museum of Ice Cream, a VIP venue that typically only a celebrity could score.

How did they make it happen? They enlisted two sets of extremely determined parents, particularly Sydney's mother, who wrote the museum a heartfelt letter insisting that this was the perfect first wedding for the museum—an LGBTQ+ affair during Pride month in San Francisco. The museum enthusiastically agreed, and both brides felt like Beyoncé.





In the end, a wedding-planning story that could have been remembered as a catastrophe was reframed June 14, 2019, as the sweetest, most delicious night of their lives. “Everyone, everywhere, was smiling,” remembers Sydney. Adds Catherine, “One of our gay friends said she never felt so free to be herself at a wedding before. That was the coolest thing anyone could have said to us that night.” Or for the Meyer-Mecklers, the rainbow sprinkles on top of a delicious, ice cream-filled evening.





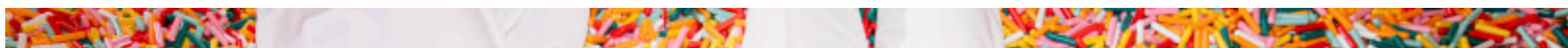
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENN EMERLING; EVENT PLANNING BY **BE HITCHED**.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENN EMERLING; EVENT PLANNING BY **BE HITCHED**.

The Museum of Ice cream, where the reception was held, already has tons of baked-in fun—such as this 490-square-foot pool filled with two-inch rainbow sprinkles—so the brides only had a few decisions to make. They designed the bar signs and added five-pound Gummy Bears (yes, they're edible) as table decorations and chose a Birthday Cake from Milk Bar, because, says Sydney, "we're obsessed with it." And to honor the date, they worked with Stag Dining to create several memorable cocktails named with Pride month in mind, such as the Pride Paloma.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENN EMERLING; EVENT PLANNING BY [BE HITCHED](#).

Finding a venue was complicated. Choosing outfits was not. “I saw this Viktor & Rolf jumpsuit in a magazine and knew I needed it!” says Sydney. As for Catherine’s Lihi Hod gown, she recalls, “I slipped it on and felt so elegant.” Since “we love to boogie down,” says Catherine, she changed into a pink flapper dress for the party. Sydney danced in her pink velvet Gucci loafers.

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