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MEET

**DAKOTA
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OF GREY*



LIVING

GOOD



P.S. WE MADE THIS

Elliott (left) and Current with their respective broods on the patio of Elliott's West Hollywood home. (Elliott collected the decorative letters from various antiques shops.)

After spending the day with stylists Emily Current and Meritt Elliott, friends since their undergrad days at UCLA, business partners—best known for their runaway-hit denim line, Current/Elliott, which launched in 2008—and neighbors whose homes line the same quiet West Hollywood street, you might be tempted to ask if a disagreement has ever disrupted their almost-too-perfect-to-believe harmony. But the pair, comfortably curled up on Elliott's white sofa, only laugh. "Everyone asks us that!" Current says with an octave-spanning chuckle, while Elliott, half a foot taller and twice as reserved, nods. "It's crazy," she insists, "but we really haven't."

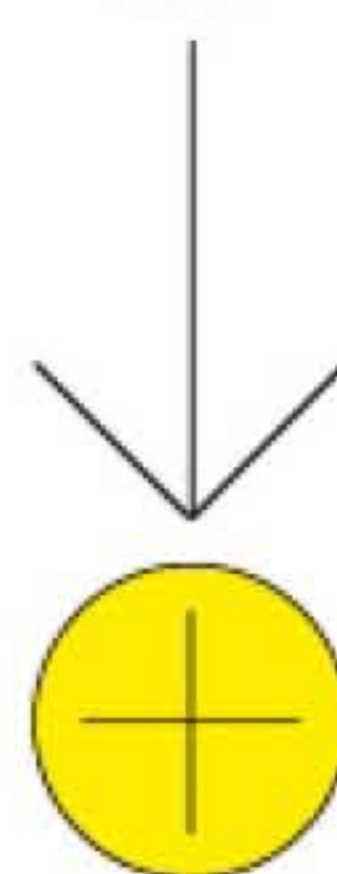
Indeed, as they lead a tour of their neighboring abodes—along the way discussing clients Jessica Alba, Emma Roberts, and Mandy Moore, all of whom they style in a clever mix of Rodeo Drive classics and Shopbopian labels—the pair, both 36, never once disagree. And though Current says Elliott presides over the more "glamorous" of their living spaces, the similarities are striking: two closets equally brimming with beach-ready caftans and chambray button-downs; two sets of tightly arranged photo collages; two baby girls with *W* names (Current gave birth to Wallis just six weeks after Elliott welcomed Wolfe last year). Current also insists that they're both

"allergic to that 'fierce' fashion *thing*," which may be why their compatibility is so convincing. Or maybe they've just been through a lot together. In 2009, Elliott's late husband, singer Kevin Carlberg, with whom she had daughter Lyric, now eight, died of brain cancer. "That happened right in the middle of building our business," says Elliott, who has since married hospitality entrepreneur John Rankin. "So we've had perspective checking us every single day."

The duo started styling celebrities as a team in 1999 and happened to make their foray into clothing design at the exact moment when pricey denim became a status symbol for a certain kind of woman. And though Current/Elliott jeans—stovepipe skinnies in the ultimate workaday blue and best-selling, tissue-soft boyfriends that all but reinvented the celebrity-off-duty look—came with a premium price tag, their signature broken-in aesthetic separated them from the competition. "We wanted a low to all of the high, sparkly things that were happening in fashion," Current says. "There were all of these party tops and jeans with glitter on them, and we were really looking for that down element."

Current and Elliott parted ways with their namesake line in 2012 (rumors suggest creative differences with CEO Serge Azria), but they continue to lend their vision to a range of unex-

TAP!





SCROLL

CHEZ EMILY

Current in her dining room

CURRENT AFFAIR



(Above) A ring holder from their PBteen collection (pbteen.com); (left) Flavor Paper's Dauphine wallpaper matches the drama of Current's powder room (flavorpaper.com)

(Right) Give bookshelves a lived-in, knickknack-filled look with quirky *objets* like owl beeswax candles (hudsonmadeny.com)



CHEZ MERITT

SCROLL

Elliott amid vintage black-and-white pictures, both bought and inherited

ELLIOTT'S ELEMENTS



The duo's forthcoming book, *A Denim Story: Inspirations From Bellbottoms to Boyfriends* (Rizzoli)

"It's very shocking that I embraced color," says Elliott of Wolfe's nursery. The designer used Glidden White on White and Full Bloom for the ceiling and Dunn-Edwards Just Pink Enough on the walls.



Deck your halls in black-and-white prints. A good starting place: this 1962 print of Bob Dylan (soniceditions.com)



pected brands. In 2011, they collaborated with Kate Spade on a capsule of slouchy clutches and well-worn carryalls; last year, they created their first collection of home goods with ironic pillows, sweet dotted sheets, and vintage-inspired picture frames for PBteen (a second installment will be released in the fall).

A shared taste for casual luxury also permeates each woman's approach to home decor. Both domains are cozily cluttered with animal-inspired accessories, fur throws, and well-loved tchotchkes. Current's 1921 Spanish-style bungalow boasts curious nooks, an enclosed garden, and retro moldings. A thimble-size washroom makes a big statement with slightly trippy wallpaper—"It felt very Dr. Seussy," she says—and to save space, a vintage lion door knocker in lieu of a towel rack. Of a bronze heron sculpture that migrated from room to room before finally settling in the parlor, where its neck cranes out from behind a Louis XIV love seat, Current says, simply, "You just know something's missing when it's missing."

If Current lives in a modern-day Wonderland, Elliott is the neighborhood's very sensible rabbit. Her home, built in 1948 and complete with bay-window kitchen seating and tiered Victorian-style shutters, is a former duplex converted into a single-family

home. Despite the structure's innate eccentricities, Elliott, who actually prefers the constrictions of very specific advertising jobs to broader, anything-goes styling gigs—"I like working in a box," she says—seems to gravitate toward a more classic Hollywood feel. To add personality to a narrow, L-shape staircase, she painted the floorboards black and lined the walls with black-and-white family photos, classic film stills, and silhouetted portraits from Current's 2012 wedding to musician David Brotherton; a rough-hewn rope bannister was imported from the UK. When it came to Wolfe's room, Elliott surprised herself by choosing sherbet shades over her usually muted palette. "The baby spends a lot of time on her back," she says, "so I wanted to give her something happy to look at."

In *A Denim Story: Inspirations From Bellbottoms to Boyfriends*, a coffee-table book out this month from Rizzoli, the partners (along with photographer Hilary Walsh) ruminate on the images that have inspired not only their work but also their interwoven lifestyles. Patti Smith and Jane Birkin loom large, alongside images from fashion shoots the pair has art-directed and styled. It's something they'll be able to pull off the bookshelf and show their grandkids. "That's what motivated us," Elliott says. "Everything is changing in the world, but this is forever."

TAP!

