



## An Artist's Airstream Studio

By JODY BROTHERSTON, ASID

**N**ancy Pearce, an artist who uses her 19' International CCD Bambi as a studio when she is at her ranch in Palo Pinto County, Texas, just completed a warm and inviting interior design that replaced some of the original turquoise/ black/ charcoal color scheme of Christopher Deam.

Since Nancy is an accomplished painter, as well as being Art Director and Design Artist for Interior Resources, a

flooring design showroom in Dallas, she knew exactly what she wanted. Her sensitive approach to color, and the vast amount of material finish choices available for her personal use, brought a unique assortment of textiles, pattern and color together.

Alice Cottrell, a Dallas Designer, assisted with putting the interior design together. Nancy's design criteria became the concept: good light for color matching

and producing water color creations, and a warm environment for her textile and rug renderings on the new dinette table.

Currently, the Airstream also serves as a home away from home in the north Texas hill country, where plans are underway to build a house on the property. During this long process, the Airstream will be both Nancy's studio and home on wheels while she stays in touch with construction issues of the house.



Careful use of color and texture makes this Bambi roomier and easier on the eye.

The small red, yellow and black patterned rug is from Nancy's personal collection of Caucasian tribal pieces, and it sets the tone for the warm color scheme. The exciting shades of red-orange and tan are repeated throughout to create unity and pull the design together. This unity in the small interior space provides strength, and delights the eye as it reads the subtle color changes and finish material patterns.

The window treatment around the dinette table features a Ralph Lauren fabric called "Denys Stripe" in the color Burlap. The vertical red-orange and tan stripes create a feeling of height within the space. The dinette cushions and backs are covered in Kenmark's "Lizard Caliente" in the color Saddle, a lizard embossed-faux leather textile in a beautiful tobacco brown.

The new dinette table top is stainless steel, custom made by Tom Johnson of Baldwin Metals, Dallas to cover the existing laminate, and the other laminate counter tops will also have stainless tops. The table top was made to slide on to the existing top, and is kept in place by

non skid rubber padding. This allows for an easy removal in the event that scratches need to be buffed out.

The cabinet finish material and walls are the original black Formica and stainless, which creates a striking contrast within the Airstream. The flooring throughout the Airstream is Chilewich's "Aluminum," a unique material made out of woven vinyl which looks like a silver carpet. The reflective quality of the flooring repeats the silver metallic wall surface, adds more light within the space, and plays the role of a neutral color. It is an excellent choice for an Airstream, and it looks like it was made specifically for Airstreams.

The installer sanded the existing white wood-grain patterned vinyl flooring first to remove the embossed wood-grain pattern before gluing it directly over the existing flooring. Cleaning can be accomplished by sweeping and damp mopping, and it is friendly to dog and cat toenails.

The bedspread's velour fabric is P. Kaufman's "Jazz" in the color Persimmon,

custom made to fit the bed. The animal print bolsters are Robert Allen's faux fur "Bambi" in the color Sesame. Solid throw pillows repeat the bedspread color, and become a foil for the antique Mayan embroidered textile Nancy found in Guatemala, and used to cover the large pillow. The warm and inviting bed room area is a haven for rest and relaxation. To keep up with world events and catch an occasional movie, a flat screen TV has been installed along with the Bose iPod speaker system.

Stainless steel framed photos of favorite travel stops and textile designs are appropriately placed throughout the space. "Lighting in this Airstream is excellent," states Nancy as she illustrates the fine detail drawing in a rug design she is working on at the table. One of her whimsical horse paintings is framed and hanging next to the dinette. She works in a very small design format in gouache paintings for her rug and textile design, which requires optimum lighting to do the color matching. She admits that she



Nancy's Bambi is a haven for relaxation.

would love to follow her other passion of oil painting cloudscapes, but she can't fit the large canvases through the door of the trailer.

Design is about choices, and here the obvious choice was color and the repetition of warm tones to create unity within a small space. Color can be used to give a wall or a texture increased visibility and a quality of weight. The black Formica wall and cabinetry provides visual weight and strong contrast to the neutral aluminum walls, and the warm red color of the bedspread becomes a focal point. The red tone is repeated throughout in various values, pattern, and texture, which become a very strong unifying element.

Often a good balance of color is found in spaces that utilize the law of chromatic distribution: the larger areas are neutralized and dulled, and the smallest areas are brightest, with color intensity becoming brighter as the areas become smaller. In this small Airstream, good color choices created a feeling of a much larger space. ♦♦♦

## Who

Client: Nancy Pearce

Interior Designer: Alice Cottrell

Photographer: Jason Franzen, [www.moresimple.com](http://www.moresimple.com)

## What

19' International CCD Bambi Airstream

Flooring: Chilewich, [www.chilewich.com](http://www.chilewich.com)

Fabrics: Ralph Lauren, [www.interiordesigncollection.com](http://www.interiordesigncollection.com)  
 P.Kaufman, [www.pkcontract.com](http://www.pkcontract.com)  
 Robert Allen, [www.robertallendesign.com](http://www.robertallendesign.com)  
 Kenmark, [www.kenmark.com](http://www.kenmark.com)

*Note: Some fabrics are available only to the trade and so you'll need to work with a specialist to obtain access to them.*

Stainless Steel Fabrication: Baldwin Metals, Dallas TX, [www.baldwinmetals.com](http://www.baldwinmetals.com)

## Where

Dallas, Texas

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