

Wendy and Greg Blackband were both working in advertising when they chose to switch gears and forge their own stylish path. "Together we decided that we wanted out of the corporate grind and looked at developing a business that we could do together," says Greg. To that end, the husband-and-wife duo launched Blackband Home & Design, where she heads their interior design work—and can sometimes be seen driving her fabric-filled golf cart to projects around Balboa Island—and he oversees the retail business, including their Irvine store. In that showroom, the couple's two viewpoints—he's from London, she's from Newport Beach—come together seamlessly. "Our style is coastal Bohemian," says Wendy of a world where Union Jack down cushions can mix with succulents in antique wood boxes and a print of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century etching of an octopus. "Through layering we create a juxtaposition of dark and light, new and old, sophistication and casualness. Our design style reflects our personalities, which are warm, inviting and pretty down to earth." [www.blackbanddesign.com](http://www.blackbanddesign.com); 949.872.2234

The Blackbands' Irvine showroom offers a curated range of objects, such as branches of coral set into plaster wood-grain bases, to achieve their desired eclectic look.

**GISELLE**



MARINE LAYERS

# WENDY & GREG BLACKBAND



## I BECAME INTERESTED IN DESIGN WHEN...

**GB:** I've spent a lot of time in the South of France, in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and Cap d'Antibes, and I've always loved the look of French architecture. It's so un-England and very cool.

**WB:** My mom was an artist and had a fellowship at the Whitney, so I grew up with that art and design lifestyle. I remember being inspired going to the Met and the MoMA with her.

## GREATEST INFLUENCE:

**WB:** My passion for travel has taken me across the globe for extended stays in Africa, Europe, Asia, South America and Mexico, which has profoundly influenced my eye for color and my unique sense of style.

## DESIGN ICONS:

**WB:** John Saladino and John Robshaw.

## SPECIAL INDULGENCE:

**GB:** Having a date night with Wendy at the Montage Laguna Beach.