

MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

• *On how she got started junking.* “I grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida, where antiques go to die. A lot of folks retire in Florida and bring their nice things that they no longer need. My mom used to take me with her to estate and yard sales.

“When I got married at age 22, we had no money, so I furnished our one-bedroom apartment with yard-sale finds. I love the treasure hunt and the aspect that old things have a story. I look for things that reflect me and make me smile. Nothing we have could be called a fine antique.”

• *On decorating with pets.* “We have three English setters who get

on everything, including my bed. Slipcovers help, but they have been washed to the nub. I plan to have all my furniture recovered in Sunbrella fabric.

“Another secret. I love old dark, oriental rugs. You can’t ruin them. I know because my dogs have tried.”

• *On getting design help.* “I have no formal design training, just a passion,” she said.

To keep her on track, she consults with a designer friend she met years ago at a designer yard sale. She hired him to help her redo her kitchen, and he has continued to hold her hand and occasionally say, “No, don’t even think about it.”

• *On her writing space.* At

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Though bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews has a “great home office,” she prefers to write in this sunroom, “a cozy nest” she furnished with flea market finds. *Photos courtesy Mary Kay Andrews*

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