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BRILLIANT COLOR

SOOTHING
NEUTRALS
to
FEARLESS
JEWEL
TONES



COLOR THEORY

BURSTS OF VIVID
HUES GIVE SPARKLE
AND SHINE TO A
YOUNG FAMILY'S HOME
IN CONNECTICUT.



INTERIOR DESIGN BY SUZANNE KASLER ARCHITECTURE BY JOAN CHAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMON UPTON WRITTEN BY MIMI READ



“IT'S CASUAL AND DRESSY,
VELVET AND LINEN, NEW WITH MODERN.”





A monochromatic palette showcases
boldly colored art and accents.
John Saladino sofas upholstered in
Nancy Corzine silk crevasse. Side
tables, Suzanne Kaizer for Hickory
Chair, coffee table, Jan Showers.
Antique recliner from Herringbone
Home, Chandelier, Nancy Corzine.
Rug, Bouvais. Artwork, Aaron
Weiler, opening pages, left: Side
chair in Classic Cloth fabric. Lamp,
Vaughan. Walls, Glidden's Seven
Lakes. Art, Picasso, opening
pages, right: Stools from William
Word Fine Antiques, in Zoffany
velvet, Bergere in Nancy Corzine
linen blend. Floor lamp, Baker.

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WHEN DESIGNER SUZANNE KASLER TRAVELS TO PARIS, SHE ALWAYS PHOTOGRAPHS A KALEIDOSCOPIC ASSORTMENT OF PAINTED DOORS AND DOORWAYS FOR HER OWN AMUSEMENT. TO HER, IT'S A COLLECTION NOT ONLY OF

beautiful entryways, but also of magical colors.

When she decorated these rather grand rooms in Greenwich, Connecticut, for a couple with young children, Kasler used some of her richest and most saturated Paris door colors to bring the home boldly to life: turquoise, gray-blue, lavender, purple, and juicy Hermès orange. And why not? After all, the house is a new creation by architect Joan Chan and was inspired mainly by French châteaux.

As you walk through, the rooms alternate between strong colors and pale neutrals such as cement and ivory. Sometimes bright color is on the walls, but other times it's in the upholstery, the large-scale abstract artwork, or merely the pillows. Or a gash of color is seen mainly through a doorway and is only experienced full force for limited amounts of time, as in the gleaming turquoise dining room and the romantic, lavender powder room.

"The variations create a subliminal rhythm," says Kasler, whose second book, *Timeless Style* (Rizzoli), comes out in October. "There's a lot of color, but it's strategically used, so it ends up feeling subtle."

The homeowners, a couple of design buffs, were all for using daring color in this sophisticated, measured





A vibrant turquoise defines the dining room, from the walls and upholstery to the fine trim on the chairs. Chandelier, David Latasa. Table, Suzanne Kasler for Hickory Chair. Rug, Beauvais. Art, Franz Kline. Ceiling, Ralph Lauren Paint's Oyster.



Tactile textures create an inviting family room. Wing chair by Dennis & Lee, covered in Edelman leather. Coffee table and wooden bowl, Formations. Basket, Ballard Designs. Rug, Beauvivre Art, Ellsworth Kelly. Opposite: Sofas by Holly Hunt, upholstered in Veevaen linen. Throw, Hermes. Stool, Gregorius Pineo.



way. They wanted a spirited, chic home with some fanciness and sparkle; they also wanted an older-looking house that functions like a new one. To accomplish this, they brought their own French adventures to the table, relying on antiques they'd collected and some magnificent architectural salvage they'd amassed to import a whiff of Gallic age and gravitas. Their lucky finds include three antique French limestone chimneypieces that have been installed throughout the house, as well as an 18th-century wrought-iron gate from a *hôtel particulier* in Bordeaux, which is now their front door.

The couple chose Kasler in large part because of her signature style, which involves creating a layered mix of furnishings with traditional and modern elements. "It's casual and dressy, velvet and linen, new with modern," she says. The clients wanted exactly this, to provide not only a comfortable arena for family life and frequent entertaining, but also a well-edited

backdrop for their flourishing, blue-chip 20th- and 21st-century art collection, which includes works by Picasso, Cy Twombly, Franz Kline, and Bruce Marden.

As it turns out, their favorite space is the smartly tailored family room, where Kasler kept the walls, trim, and even the sofas neutral, confining the color to artwork, pillows, and throws. If the living room and powder room are glam, the family room is the house's emotional core. The TV is hidden behind an Ellsworth Kelly painting—highbrow concealing lowbrow with a wink. "There's a lot of design in here," says Kasler, "but it's a room you want to hang out in. Whenever I go over there, that's where everyone is."

Next to the Kelly painting is a sexy wing chair in blue-gray leather. "I love that chair," says Kasler. "That same cement color is the entire color of another room in the house. What I like is how color makes the rooms all feel connected, but you're not sure why." □

FOR KASLER'S DESIGN TIPS, SEE VERANDA.COM

“THERE'S A LOT OF COLOR, BUT IT'S STRATEGICALLY USED, SO IT ENDS UP FEELING SUBTLE.”





A lavender Grace silk wallcovering brings romance to a powder room. Vintage Baguets sconces, Mirror and fittings, Sherie Wagner, opposite, top; Chaise in John Saladino for Sawel silk velvet; Louis XVI headboard, and bench, all by Nancy Corzine. Bedding, Lili Alessandra. Carpet, Stark. Art, Carolyn Carr, opposite, bottom; Sofa in Old World Weavers cotton velvet. Chairs in J. Robert Scott silk. Ceiling fixture, Oly.