

COLOR HERORY BURSTS OF VIVID HUES GIVE SPARKLE

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 MIMIREAD







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 châteaus.

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.

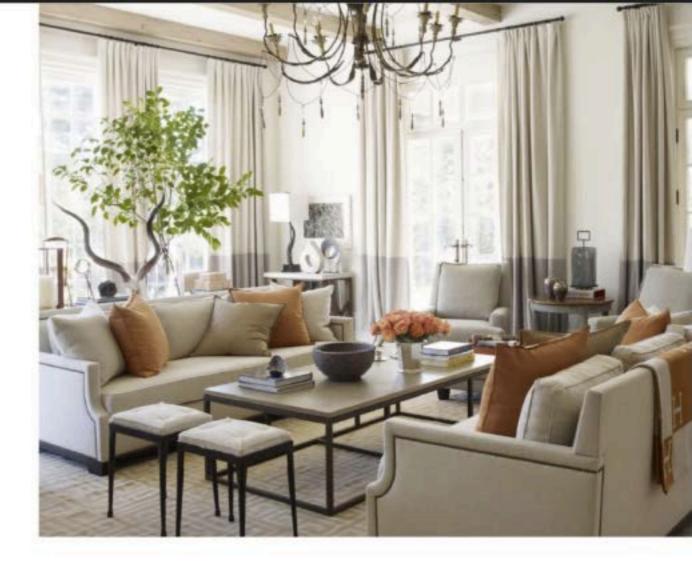
"The variations create a subliminal rhythm," says Kasler, whose second book, Timeless Style (Rizzoli), comes out in October. "There's a lot of color, but it's strategically used, so it ends up feeling subtle."

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









way. They wanted a spirited, thic bome 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 Brice 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 lowbrone 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."

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