OUTDOOR EXCLUSIVE: CAPTIVATING IDEAS FROM A FRENCH GARDEN p46

TRADITIONAL HOME®

April 2014

the COLOR issue

107 WALLPAPERS, FABRICS, PAINTS & MORE: BRING ON THE COLOR!

8 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR KITCHEN GORGEOUS & HARD-WORKING

CLASSIC TASTE • MODERN LIFE
25th Anniversary
1989 2014

LOVELY IDEAS FOR SPRING ENTERTAINING p60

$4.95 U.S.
Display until April 15
04
0 14005 14401 0

Take a color poll

I'd love to know what color is your favorite—what sings to you. Take a few minutes to visit the color section of our newly redesigned Web site, click on our poll, and then tell me. Go to: traditionalhome.com/design/color. We'll keep you posted on the consensus and try to share more ideas for your faves on the pages of *Traditional Home*. Thanks!

Why do two colors, one put next to the other, sing? Picasso posed the question, but couldn't answer it—and neither can I. While there are professionals who can probably provide the technical explanations, I'm simply happy to celebrate the results on these pages.

I envy interior designers who have the frequent opportunity to spin the color wheel and select from a rainbow of hues. Their challenge is to provide a scheme that suits their client—and no two clients are ever alike. It's a constant exploration of new palettes in search of perfect combinations.

While my own experiences have been more limited (so many colors, so few rooms!), I am working my way around that color wheel. As a little girl, the colors of my bedroom were a pretty pink and green, much like the exuberant Atlanta home of Katie and Sedgie Newsom ("Pink Lady," page 88) transformed by Boston designer Katie Rosenfeld. But unlike the colorful Newsoms, there was no negotiation for me—it was my mother's scheme. Sedgie was able to wrangle unlimited golf privileges in return for agreeing to his wife's choice of a pink dining room, with the caveat that the design couldn't look "sissy-ish." Hmmm, what could I have gotten?

Later, when the choice became mine, I seemed to make selections based not only on what colors I loved, but also on how the room was used or where it was situated. (I'm still not sure whether I consciously realized what I was doing.) As a teenager, it was a cheery yellow for a west-facing bedroom where my friends hung out—we were happy kids, no Goth influences for us. Since then I've painted walls deep, rosy red and accented woodwork with crisp white trying to make north-facing rooms feel warm and cozy. And today I use a soft green to create a cool, serene sanctuary for our bedroom at the lake—translate that as the perfect spot for napping.

It's suddenly become apparent that many of the colors I've loved and used over the years are making an appearance in this issue. (But that wasn't a conscious decision.) There was a bit of déjà vu when I realized that a blue-and-ivory color scheme—same as the wallpaper in my first master bedroom—was used throughout an entire house decorated by Lake Forest, Illinois, designer Megan Winters for a client whose favorite color is navy ("Blue with Brio," page 68). Talk about a timeless favorite. You'll find Megan used it beautifully from walls and windows to furniture and tabletop.

No matter which hue you choose or how you apply it, here's to a colorful spring that sings for you!

Ann Omvig Maine, Editor in Chief
traditionalhome@meredith.com

PHOTOGRAPH: BILL KELLANS; ILLUSTRATION: MARK MARTURELLO

On the cover
Foyer designed by Tobi Fairley; photographed by Nancy Nolan. See page 98.

68

Contents

April 2014

Volume XXV, Issue 3

Features

68 **Blue with Brio** | Designer Megan Winters used deep blues in fabrics and antiques to update an Illinois spec house with charming character.

78 **Playing with Pastels** | In Atlanta, family treasures and a pretty palette warm a Federal-style home with interiors by Heather Dewberry and Will Huff.

88 **Pink Lady** | The charge to designer Katie Rosenfeld: Put pink in every room—but keep it sophisticated. (Mission accomplished!)

98 **Team Colors** | Game on! Designer Tobi Fairley deploys high-energy hues for an athletic Arkansas family. ➤

WRITTEN BY CANDACE ORD MANROE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER STRAUBE

blue *with* brio

A GENEROUS USE OF COLOR RAMPS UP ELEGANCE AND ENERGY IN THIS ILLINOIS HOUSE

Bespoke walnut moldings, French antiques, and fabulous fabrics are just a few of the features interior designer Megan Winters tapped to transform a Lake Forest, Illinois, builder's spec house into a home rich with character. Yet jaw-dropping beauty is not the laurel on which this designer prefers to rest. "Yes, I think the rooms are beautiful, but the reason the home is a success is because it's a reflection of the family and the things they love," she explains.

Rest assured, these active homeowners—Julie and Michael Eckert and their three children, ages 12, 15, and 19—have a plethora of passions. Winters not only kept pace but was often a step ahead.

Take color. Winters gave Julie first dibs on the house's palette. The full-time mom was the one likely to spend the most time at home. "Navy blue is my favorite color, so Megan wanted to use it throughout the house," Julie says. "But I said, 'It's hard.' Her response was, 'Don't worry, I'll get it'—and she did."

Thanks to the designer's cool confidence, Julie's beloved blue-and-white palette connects every room—from the foyer's color blocks of navy and white linen covering antique seating to the living

Living room A Ralph Lauren "Acacia Grass" wallcovering in French blue enriches the room, along with shades fabricated in a Travers linen with a pattern of Chinese export vases, which the homeowners collect. Chair pillows are covered in "Les Touches" by Brunschwig & Fils. Jansen drink tables were found in France; busts defining the seating area are antiques. **Portrait** Julie and Michael Eckert with designer Megan Winters (right).

Living room Accent fabric on the vintage Jansen bergères is "Saphia" by Designers Guild. **Dining room** "Haruki Sisal" by Schumacher covers the walls; Stark's dramatic "Hand-Hammered Gold Leaf" dresses the ceiling. **Entry** English antique benches covered in Kravet's "Madison Linen" cluster around an 1800s table. **Office** Antique pond yachts sail on paneling.

Family room The designer replaced heavy window treatments with custom shades in Pindler & Pindler fabric to lighten the space. Fireplace chairs are covered in "Rajah" by Cowtan & Tout. **Breakfast room** Benjamin Moore's "Super White" brightens walls. The comfy chairs are from RH, and the handsome nickel-and-leather chandelier is by Ralph Lauren.

room's ikat and Chinese jar-patterned fabrics. "Julie loves every iteration of blue," notes Winters, who strayed slightly from the predominant navies and indigos to a lighter yet still rich variation for the living room's grass-cloth walls. "It's a hard color to describe, but it makes the walls sing," she says.

Grass cloth is a theme replayed throughout the spaces. "Before, there wasn't a single wallcovering. Nothing but paint," says Winters. "I told them the house needed texture. They learned a lot about layering."

In the dining room, she dipped down to a dark navy grass cloth to envelop the space with drama. Overhead, she created a counterpoint of sparkle with the ceiling's gold-leaf grid. A crystal chandelier illuminates the homeowners' Chinese export collection, displayed in an antique English cabinet. A pair of old wooden chairs came from a church in England.

In the master bedroom—which actually was one of the two rooms Winters was initially retained to design—the designer lightened up the look with a sandy-hued grass cloth on the walls. White bed linens and white window shades reinforce the clean look, featuring only a smidgeon of navy blue accents on the bed's monogrammed pillows and the trim defining the shades.

"The Eckerts are happy, energetic people, and their home needed to feel the same," says Winters. She rid the windows of heavy draperies and let in light with variously styled custom shades. In the family room, trunks serve as side tables for an easygoing look. She also replaced gray carpet with sisal rugs for additional textural interest.

Master bath Gilded étagères, gilt benches from France, and custom gilt mirrors create sparkle. "Cumulus" fabric from Threads for Lee Jofa covers the benches; window treatment is in "Slendang" fabric from Nobilis.

Master bedroom Schumacher's "Sachi Root" in multi-tan brings texture to walls. Winters stood her ground for the antique Baccarat crystal chandelier, which the couple now agrees is the room's pièce de résistance. Yves Delorme bed pillows are monogrammed with navy stitching. A vintage Maison Jansen writing table and Jansen stools add a sense of fun.

"I'm big on rooms flowing together," Winters says. "An easy, economical way to get that is with sisal rugs and runners. In this home, they serve as a response to the smoothness and formality of the new moldings."

Michael, CEO of a global interactive display manufacturer, got plenty of perks in the design. "He's the family chef, and he wanted a cook's kitchen," says Winters, who reconfigured the space with a more efficient work triangle and replaced the "big block" island with a more navigable one that allows the family to gather as Michael cooks. Throughout the Eckerts' home, total accessibility for a trio of children is paramount. "Even our master bedroom includes a conversation area that is inviting to the kids, who always end up gathering here," Julie says.

Both Julie and Michael got their own offices in the redesign. Michael, a passionate sailor, enjoys the eight antique pond yachts displayed on the newly paneled walls of his office. He balked at having three crystal chandeliers in the home, so Winters suggested adorning the center-hall foyer with a masculine carved-bronze French antique chandelier. "Michael said he wanted a 'mandelier,'" laughs Julie, "and he got it."

"Despite some fine French pieces, the house doesn't feel too precious," suggests Winters. "It feels like the Eckert family. And the Eckert family rocks."

Interior designer: Megan Winters

For more information, see sources on page 111