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SUNNY DISPOSITION

INTERIOR DESIGNER
SANDRA LUCAS'S FEARLESS
USE OF CHEERFUL COLORS
AND PLAYFUL PATTERNS TAKES
A HOUSTON HOME FROM
BLAH TO BOLD.

TEXT MARGARET ZAINY ROUX
PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHEN KARLISCH





Opposite: Comfy chairs upholstered in a floral damask print surround a game table. The fabric's soft blue greens, creams, and golds lighten up the space with notes of apricot tying it all together. This page: Given the scale of the living room and its dramatic ceiling height, the rich, saturated hue creates a sense of coziness and visually connects the room to the reclaimed brick used throughout the interior.





Clockwise: A sitting area at the end of the kitchen is the ideal perch for enjoying a cup of coffee and soaking up the eastern morning light. A reclaimed brick grotto and custom range hood create a focal point in the kitchen. Kate Spade's Bella Books wallcovering climbs the walls of the laundry room. Opposite: The breakfast room's white-on-taupe floral wallcovering is a perfect transition between the rich tones of the brick-clad kitchen and the apricot paneled living room.

wood and stone elements and introducing a punchy palette ranging from cool blues and greens to warm corals and yellows. Even the lighting got a fresh coat of paint. Pleasing in their design and perfectly proportioned for their designated spaces, several of the existing fixtures were revived—not replaced—and hand-painted in a champagne finish.

"Choosing hues that play well together is the key to successfully designing a home filled with color," Lucas says. "During the planning phase, I filled in a copy of the floor plan with colored pencils to determine how the colors would flow from room to room. I used those that were neutral or 'calming' to break up the more vibrant ones in order to give the eye a chance to rest as it transitions throughout the spaces. This tactic also helped to create balance, which, to me, is one of the most important principles of design. It is what makes us feel good about our built environments."

Creating balance among patterns was also an integral part of Lucas's design strategy. In the breakfast room, for example, she upholstered chairs in a solid but textural fabric to temper the room's large-scale printed grasscloth wallcovering while, in the







Opposite: Lucas designed a custom platform bed for the son's bedroom with deep drawers below to maximize storage. The blue-and-white palette offers a timeless look that will take him from childhood through his teens. A vintage parasol painting by Matt Messinger hangs above a guest room daybed. Hunt Slonem's Hutch wallcovering looks sweet yet sophisticated in a guest bath. This page: The daughter's bathroom features a punchy abstract wallcovering by Pierre Frey. A cheerful palette of yellow, coral, and teal is featured in the floral headboard and the Missoni rug. A sitting room at the top of the stair landing is a favorite gathering spot for overnight guests.

dining room, she chose a solid wool fabric for the fronts of the chairs to honor and highlight the fanciful Fortuny pattern she used for the inset backs. Juxtapositions such as these run rampant throughout the interior's furnishings, as well as pairing classic with contemporary. Lucas peppered rooms with pieces from the homeowners' antique collection, including consoles, commodes, tables, and chairs. Among the most eye-catching antiques is a massive 18th-century Welsh dresser that displays a host of marbled Christopher Spitzmiller dinnerware. The simple form and playful pattern sparks youthfulness to help deflect from the formality of the dresser.

"The beauty of this home is in the mix," Lucas says. "You can feel the history that overflows from the reclaimed finishes and antique furnishings—every nick and imperfection tell a story. But the modern art and accessories also tell a story, and it recounts the authentic style and youthful spirit of the family who call it home."





Above: A delicate chinoiserie wallcovering tempers the hardy reclaimed brick floors in the lady's bath and dressing room. The 1950s-style slipper chair was custom designed with a higher seat so that it sits at just the right height for the vanity. Opposite: The GP & J Baker fabric that covers the headboard is between a toile and a botanical print. A rich green welt winds the edge of the headboard to accentuate its unique scalloped silhouette. Subtle hues of khaki, sand, and seafoam are also derived from its earthy palette and are repeated on the drapes, settee, and painted bedside chests.

