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# A Cheery Disposition

A young couple with a baby on the way brought a spirited color combo to their new living room.

By contributing writer Brooke McGrath

**T**here are plenty of eye-catching homes, and then there is this home.

Caroline and Wiley Curran grew up with and retained an enthusiasm for bold taste and style. In 2014, they bought a home in Fairway, Kan., then took it down to the studs to make it their own. With a range of fur babies and their first child on the way, the couple needed durability and functionality, especially in a space that is made to bring the family together.

With a specific vision from interior designer Annie Anderson, the whole home remodel set off in a colorful direction—more specifically, a vintage blue and raspberry in the living room.

“I think you could call this room’s style ‘transitional traditional,’” Anderson says. “It might seem bright and bold, but the elements of the room are all very classic: slipper chairs from Billy Baldwin’s era, a classic Brunschwig & Fils zebra print and a flo-



ral chintz that brings it all together.” The sofa, which grounds the space, might seem like a bold choice, but Anderson considers it a neutral in the room.

Filling in around the raspberry is Farrow & Ball’s Dix Blue on paneled and lacquered walls, an application process that took about six weeks to perfect. That color also migrated to the ceiling in the form of grasscloth by Phillip Jeffries.

Because the couple wanted to use this space to its full potential, it had to not only accommodate their growing family but also frequent guests and family members.

“They both love to entertain, so we wanted a room that people would actually gather and sit in,” Anderson says. “I believe in using every space in a house, and in this case, this room fully delivers.”

## WHY *it* WORKS

**1.** The purpose of the overall design was to draw people in to relax and reconnect. “It is a happy space,” Anderson says. “It’s hard to walk in and not smile.” Styled for entertaining, the living room, with two adjoining outdoor spaces, is durable for dogs and cozy during long nights with a newborn. Plus, how many people can say they have a raspberry sofa?

**2.** Red provides energy, while blue is calming. Gold brings in a touch of warmth, and black and white deliver sophistication. Here are the specific pieces responsible for creating the Curran’s “transitional traditional” style: a raspberry sofa from Lee Industries with trim by Perennials, blue slipper chairs covered in a Schumacher geometric fabric, a gold-framed coffee table by Made Goods, table lamps from Circa Lighting and artwork found by the homeowner at a gallery in Telluride, Colo. To top it off, Anderson accessorizes with

fresh, colorful flowers weekly to make her rooms come alive.

**3.** Fine, durable fabrics featured in the living room are classic choices that will “still look fresh in 15 years,” Anderson says. Because the dogs, Grace and Grover, run the roost—now accompanied by one-year-old Freya—patterned fabrics, such as linen, keep marks and hair from being too noticeable. Anderson also brought in a sturdy Stark area rug, a dual-purpose addition.