

luxe.

interiors + design®

DALLAS + FORT WORTH





GOING *for* BOLD

SPLASHES OF COLOR AND PATTERN HELP TAKE
A DALLAS HOUSE FROM DULL TO DIVINE.

WRITTEN BY KAMALA NAIR / PHOTOGRAPHY BY COSTA CHRIST



INTERIOR DESIGN / CARLA FONTS HRNCIR,
DUNBAR ROAD DESIGN

Right: A de Gournay wallpaper brightens this entry featuring benches covered in Kravet mohair and floors that mix Fontenay Clair limestone and Belgian bluestone from Renaissance Tile & Bath. Visible beyond, the sun room features a custom abaca rug from Interior Resources.

Opposite: Olive Leaf dual-mount chandeliers from Shades of Light line the sun room ceiling. Louis XVI armchairs from Country French Interiors in Schumacher's Bush-tone Garden of Persia fabric counter the blue-and-white palette; a lamp from Nick Brock Antiques, Mandeville draperies from Schumacher's Timothy Corigan Collection and the sofa in Villa Nowe's Atlantis Glacier material from Culp Associates.



Designer Carla Fonts Hmcir's client was in a bind: Her daughter was getting married in six weeks, but her Dallas house was in no condition to host the celebrations. Realizing her plight, mutual friends urged the owner to reach out to Fonts Hmcir for help, and the two immediately saw eye to eye. "My client loves color and patterns and wanted her house to mirror that passion," Fonts Hmcir explains, noting that the previously muted, monochromatic color palette and dated furnishings were out of sync with the owner's cheerful personality. "She said to me, 'I want life—I want it to be eclectic and fun,'" recalls Fonts Hmcir.

A naturally bold aesthetic influenced by her Cuban roots and extensive travels made Fonts Hmcir ideal for

the job. The designer's mother came from a prominent Havana family and was the type of woman who traveled to Paris to purchase table linens for entertaining. "My mom appreciated the finer things, had impeccable taste and paid attention to the smallest details," explains Fonts Hmcir, who inherited that mindset. Her family eventually made its way to Miami and Palm Beach, where the glamorous 1920s-era homes they would frequent during summers made a lasting impression. "The interiors were so colorful yet timeless," she recalls. "I loved how they pulled together different styles, mixing traditional pieces with bohemian and modern. I wanted to bring more of that feel to Dallas while also making the home reflect my client."



Schumacher Darya Ikat Side-wall wallpaper on the living room ceiling complements a custom sofa in Dedar cotton velvet, Scalamandré Square Link drapery trim and a Jan Showers lamp from David Sutherland. A slipper chair in Lisa Fine Textiles Rajkot linen from James and armchairs covered in Metaphores St. Germain Carmen cotton velvet from Lee Jofa invite warmer tones into the picture.

The designer's ideas so impressed the owner that what began as a quick fix evolved into an enduring project, with Forts Hmrcir spending two years painstakingly injecting every room in the house with punches of color and pattern. While simultaneously readying the first floor for the impending wedding, she began by replacing wallpaper throughout, and selected a Clarence House dragon print for a powder bathroom. "My client loved it so much, she wanted that boldness everywhere," says Forts Hmrcir, who instead stressed the importance of spicing things up in a balanced way by starting with wallpaper and then utilizing color and pattern elsewhere as "accessories" to help create flow. "With no hallways between the rooms, you can see multiple spaces from one vantage point, so color coordination was very important," she explains. Keeping that in mind, Forts Hmrcir proceeded to breathe life into the home in a way that channels her travels and the laid-back sophistication of Miami and Palm Beach—exuberant, but never overdone.

In the entry, for example, yellow Venetian plaster was added to the domed ceiling to complement the existing exotic de Gournay wallcovering. And in the nearby living room, she selected an ikat print for the spaces between the ceiling beams. The designer also papered the ceiling in the kitchen with a subtle marble pattern and replaced



A dramatic bar features cabinets by Morgan Cabinetry glazed in a custom Benjamin Moore color that plays off the paneling in the nearby dining room, where art by Lindsay Goodwin is displayed.



the nondescript black soapstone island countertop with a luxe emerald quartzite slab. "I originally wanted marble but saw that green slab and knew it would add the right amount of pizzazz," she says. The unexpected hue harmonizes with the color scheme in the nearby breakfast room, where Fonts Hmcir did justice to the existing mint green latticework by adding touches like a custom-colored lantern and upholstering custom chairbacks in a cheery floral fabric. Elsewhere, she brightened the dining room by reupholstering the chairs in a lemon yellow leather as a counterpart to the dark green paneled walls.

To complete the transformation, Fonts Hmcir cleared the clutter, doing away with most of the furnishings, as well as an overwhelming plethora of blue-and-white china, to make room for fresh, one-of-a-kind finds. She also chose original artworks to complement a selection of antiques she carefully curated, including a circa-1800

French oak console table in the sun room and a pair of Carrara marble columns from Italy in the living room—which, Fonts Hmcir says, "are so heavy we needed four men to carry them in." Also in the sun room, the designer paid tribute to her client's love of blue-and-white china with a pared-down selection of exquisitely crafted porcelain, some of which she arranged on a stunning gilded French antique marble-topped center table. "I wanted every piece in the house to be one the owners' grandchildren will cherish," she says.

Walking through the home now, one has the feeling of being transported to another place and time—inside a residence from midcentury Palm Beach or Havana's heyday, perhaps. But one thing's for sure: These homeowners have never felt more at home. "I always tell my clients a home should be your safe haven," Fonts Hmcir says. "At the end of the day, it should bring you peace and joy." ■

Designer Carla Fonts Hmcir completely transformed the dining room simply by reupholstering the chairs with Edelman Leather's Royal Hide in lemon as a foil for the green glazed walls. The chandelier, table and rug are from the owners' collection.



“MY CLIENT LOVES COLOR AND
PATTERNS AND WANTED HER
HOUSE TO MIRROR THAT PASSION.”

—CARLA FONTS HIRSHER

Opposite: The breakfast room's latticework by Smith Design & Manufacturing pairs with custom chairs covered in Kravet pleather on the front and Schumacher Magnolias Poppy & Yellow fabric on the back, all atop a Patterson Flynn Martin rug. The table and console are Olmich, the mirror is from Jan Showers.

Below: The breakfast room's Coleen & Company Elsie lantern from James and the kitchen's emerald quartzite slab from Stone Boutique, shown in the foreground, continue the green theme.





Opposite: Furnishings on the picturesque back patio include custom Versailles planter boxes that mingle with Herchow's Sophia outdoor chairs and ottomans.

Below: Rounding out the back patio's main features is a statement-making wall fountain from Piret Architectural.





Below, left: A Jean Jack painting from Blue Print Gallery hangs above a desk from The Mews paired with a chair from Laura Lee Clark to form a bedroom vignette.

Below, right: A powder bathroom is wallpapered in Schumacher's Colene Kemble Collection Feather Bloom print. Visual Comfort & Co. Abbot sconces from Taylors Rank, the Wisteria Pagoda mirror.