



TRUE COLOR



One thing that's become clear throughout this pandemic? We could all do with a little—or a lot—more color in our lives. You might play it safe with mostly neutrals, throwing in just a few brighter accents. Or maybe you're ready to go all out with bold, beautiful, saturated color. It's a totally personal choice, and these tips from local interior designers can help you make the right one.

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Photography by Robert Radifera for Stylish Productions




BEJEWELLED

“This is the first room you see when you enter this home,” says Arlington-based interior designer Liz Mearns of this jewel-toned dining room in an Old Town Alexandria condo located in an 1802 building.

“We wanted to create a fabulous entertainment space that set the tone for the rest of the house, as well as create functional storage.”

One of the ways Mearns made a statement was

◀ Custom cabinets by Stuart Kitchen were color-matched to the Pacific Designs grasscloth.

by saturating the dining room in color via a rich blue grasscloth and by finishing the newly installed custom cabinetry (bar and storage) in a glossy finish in the same color tone. To complete the look and add contrast, the dining chairs were upholstered in magenta.

“Our inspiration was a luxury London hotel from the same era; the couple, who travel extensively, wanted to feel they were entering a lobby in Mayfair,” she says. “The jewel tones were perfect for that.” The adjacent open living room is much more neutral, which only adds to the visual impact of the dining room.

“Dining rooms are always rooms I like to consider for color,” says Mearns. “One reason is they are most often used at night, when natural light is limited. Color can create drama, glamour, and intimacy.”

Here, despite 13-foot ceilings, the space feels intimate and cozy. Mearns also believes dining rooms are places people gather to celebrate, so setting them apart with their own special identity makes perfect sense.

PRO TIP:

Of the tone-on-tone aspect, Mearns says, “I often work with one color; here, we chose the same blue for the wallpaper and cabinetry. Even the magenta in the chairs has a lot of blue in it—I choose a color, I typically stay within shades of that color rather than creating a vibrant rainbow.”





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