

March 2009

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COLOR COORDINATED

Designer Jennifer Flanders was not shy about dousing her apartment with strong and dramatic hues. She follows these guidelines when choosing colors for her design work.

■ **GO BEYOND TRIED AND TRUE.** Instead of having go-to colors, Jennifer prefers to tackle new color combinations for each project. "Not only does it keep the work interesting, but it allows me to give something unique to each client," she says. She does, however, use one trim color repeatedly—Benjamin Moore's white dove, which, she explains, is neither too bright nor too creamy, just the perfect white.

■ **INTRODUCE COLOR SURPRISES.** Trying a new wall color is the easiest way to change the look of a room. But why stop there? Jennifer advises painting the moldings white and suggests painting the inside of bookshelves a contrasting color. That offers opportunities for more interest and drama.

■ **THINK BALANCE.** Mix light with dark and large scale with small scale to create a room of ease and comfort. Bold colors and patterns should be evenly distributed throughout a space, not clumped together in one area.

"I wanted to have a home for my daughters that was settled and finished, not half-done," says Jennifer.

The warm and uplifting colors she used throughout the apartment were drawn from the living room and dining room rugs. An orange-and-burgundy flocked wallpaper she initially selected for one of her clients has found a perfect place in Jennifer's foyer, where it provides a dramatic welcome home each day. Because clients often resist bold colors and motifs, she explains, she sometimes uses her own home as a laboratory to test their livability. Another experiment is the placement of a pair of vintage cabinets from the 1940s side by side in the entry. "Placing furniture symmetrically is not an arrangement I would typically execute," says Jennifer. "But it filled the space and also provided double the storage, which was important."

Intense color also saturates the living room. Two separate seating arrangements—one in front of the fireplace, another against the back wall—are enveloped by red walls and are anchored by matching brown velvet sofas. Simple window panels of embroidered silk were fabricated with chunky tassel fringe along the edges.

Designed with multi-functionality in mind, the pumpkin-colored dining room triples as a library (after-school home-



work), a workspace (late-night projects), and a place to dine. Storage in the apartment is minimal, so bookshelves with interiors painted a contrasting shade of eggplant were installed to house books and dinnerware, and introduce an additional vibrant color. "I thought this room would feel more warm and inviting if there was seating beyond the formal dining chairs," says Jennifer, "so I pushed the table against the wall to make room for cozy, comfortable chairs." Vintage armchairs upholstered in textured orange velvet are situated in front of the window.

