

Charlotte

JUNE/JULY 2019

HOMIE

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IN LIVING
Color

PLUS:
COLOR STUDY

MAD FOR MEMPHIS

COAST-TO-COAST
EXCURSIONS



The master bedroom features a serene blue and white palette with Scalamandré Jardin de Chine wallpaper and bedding by Leontine Linens. A pair of vintage mirrors and plaster bedside lamps by Nicholas Haslam are set atop vintage Dorothy Draper chests to round out the tranquil space.

The
HAPPIEST
HOUSE

CHARLOTTE LUCAS DOESN'T HOLD BACK ON
VIBRANT PATTERNS AND SATURATED COLORS FOR
A EUROPEAN FAMILY'S QUEEN CITY RESIDENCE.





Bold pops of color and dynamic prints create an immediate impact upon entry into the Charlotte vacation home that Charlotte Lucas of Charlotte Lucas Interior Design created for a European family. “The clients do not have these kinds of bright colors in their permanent residence,” Lucas says. “But they were willing to go a little bit out of their comfort zone and do some splashes of color here. They just wanted it to be a happy place.”

The clients – a couple from Norway with two young daughters – had seen Lucas’ work on Instagram and reached out to her through email. “Charlotte’s use of colors and way of combining old and new looked perfect for our project,” the homeowner offers. “We normally spend our summers in Charlotte, and we were looking for a place that could be a home away from home but still give us that ‘vacation’ feeling. Our design requirements were pretty basic: color, light, fun.”

Having never met the clients prior to starting on the house, Lucas’ team emailed them questionnaires and talked with them on the phone. “Charlotte and her team were great at communicating with us and making sure they understood what we wanted and who we were,” the homeowner explains. “From there, they just took control and came up with something that we were blown away with when we walked in the door for the first time.”


Since the clients were abroad, they needed a turnkey design service, so Lucas and her designers started with a completely blank slate and sourced all products in the house, from the sofa to the silverware and everything in between. Through very detailed hand-drawn renderings, the designers were able to express to the clients their interior design concept and walk them through various design details, including the unfettered use of color.

“The dining room sets the stage for the rest of the house,” Lucas explains of her decision to pair a floral wallcovering with dining chairs covered in bright teal velvet set atop a leopard-print rug. “We really wanted the space to be bold, colorful, and exciting because that’s the first thing you see when you walk in.”

The key to successfully employing so much color and pattern throughout the home is achieving balance. The

Left: Pattern and color come alive in the dining room with a floral wallcovering from Cole & Son, animal-print carpet by Hall’s Flooring, James Dunlop linen window treatments, and vintage Parsons dining chairs upholstered in a bold velvet from JAB. A Pier 1 table, a chandelier from Currey & Company, and artwork by Selena Beaudry from Hidell Brooks Gallery round out the look.



A living room with blue walls and a white fireplace. A large TV is mounted on the wall above the fireplace. In the foreground, there are two armchairs with a blue and white animal print pattern. To the right, there is a dark wood chest with a colorful floral pattern. A window with a white frame and a white blind is visible on the right wall. The ceiling has white crown molding.

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Grasscloth wallcovering by Meg Braff offers a solid backdrop against a Century Furniture sofa upholstered in a colorful floral Schumacher fabric, Hickory Chairs upholstered in an animal print, a Stark patterned rug, and Barrie Benson chests hand-painted by Anne Lemanski. Vintage bamboo armchairs in Designers Guild velvet and custom-built nesting tables offer a visual break from all the pattern. Colefax and Fowler fabricated the window treatments, and the pendant light is vintage Serge Mouille.

chairs upholstered in solid velvet complement the patterned walls and floors in the dining room, while in the family room Lucas clad the walls in grasscloth to provide richness and texture and added a vibrant floral sofa, animal-print club chairs, and hand-painted credenzas.

For the master bedroom, Lucas created a serene place for the couple with a blue and white palette. A floral wallcovering offers a subtle backdrop to the vintage furniture, including the bed, mirrors, and Dorothy Draper chests repurposed as nightstands. “We wanted that space to be a little bit more toned down but still feel alive and fresh and fit in with the rest of the house,” Lucas says.

Color reemerges in the two daughters’ rooms, which were designed to suit each girl’s unique personality. For the youngest, who was in first grade at the time, Lucas wanted to create “something fun, whimsical, and not too babyish.” Varying shades of pink are executed in a more refined way by pairing a geometric-print wallcovering with floral window treatments and solid upholstery on the window seat. The homeowner said that her younger daughter would sleep in a hammock if she could, so that prompted the design team to install a swinging hammock chair as a final whimsical touch.

The older daughter, who was in the tween stage, has a penchant for greys and blues, so the designers devised something



Two curved Highland House sofas, upholstered in a whimsical animal-and-floral-print Lulu DK fabric, juxtapose with a solid ottoman by Lee Industries in the children’s playroom. A Room & Board table and molded plastic chairs from Houzz create a workspace for the girls, where their art bulletin board is highlighted with sconces from Currey & Company.



a bit more sophisticated and cool for her. Grey-and-white House of Harris floral bedding inspired the palette for the room. “We decided to have the wallpaper custom colored to match the upholstery,” Lucas explains. “It’s a very traditional concept of using one fabric for every application, but it’s an updated fabric. And we use modern lines complemented with modern furniture, so I think we achieved a really fun kind of fresh feel for her.”

Lucas feels confident that she delivered the fun, happy vacation home that the clients were seeking. “When we design for people, I usually say, ‘I want your house to be the best version of yourself.’ And without having physically met these people, I was really hoping that was the case here,” Lucas offers, adding that she was most pleased to visit the family once they’d moved in to see how contentedly they had settled into the home.

“The common areas of the house represent the way we want to live when we’re on vacation,” the homeowner says. “We’re so pleased with the house that we consider it

Top: The designers covered the powder room walls in Cole & Son green patterned wallpaper, mirrored one entire wall, moved the sconce by Visual Comfort, and added a vintage brass decorative mirror over the vanity.

Bottom: Yellow mid-century molded plastic chairs from Houzz, a bench by Arhaus accented with custom pillows by Charlotte Lucas Interior Design with fabric by Tulu and Zoffany, and Lyle Owerko’s *The Boombox* print from SOCO Gallery define the children’s play area.





To implement a neutral palette in the guest bedroom, green linen window panels are accentuated with tape on the leading edge, found in Paris. Lotus Garden wallcovering by Schumacher stands out against the grey Eichholtz bed with Designers Guild bedding, Kelly Wearstler pillows, vintage nightstands, vintage Lucite and brass sconces, and a chandelier by Visual Comfort.



as one big work of art that has many parts, all of which offer something new and fun and which link together to create a vacation home that you always look forward to going back to.”

And the designer herself has a particular fondness for this project. “I just love this house,” she admits. “I love all the pattern. It’s just the happiest house.”◆

Top: In the younger daughter’s room, the subtle pale-pink bedding by Rebecca Atwood and Crane & Canopy complements the floral window treatments and geometric wallcoverings, both by House of Harris.

Bottom Left and Right: The design scheme of the older daughter’s room emerged from the grey-and-white House of Harris floral fabric of the bedding. The same textile was used for the window treatments and to create matching custom wallpaper.