

HAPPY HOUSE

Vibrant colors interact to create a whimsical yet traditional home that can't be beat.

BY ANTONIA DEPACE // PHOTOGRAPHED BY REBECCA MCALPIN

THE PROJECT

Rose Lane on the Maine Line was purchased as a downsized, empty-nesters home for the clients. Located in Haverford, the home comprises over 5,500 square feet with six bedrooms, four full and two half-baths.

THE CLIENTS

"They wanted to make this the house that they knew their grandchildren would be at eventually. They really wanted to create a family home of the future as their family grew and their kids were getting married," explains Michele Plachter of Michele Plachter Design (micheleplachter.com) of the project.

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A joyful tangerine grasscloth sets the tone in the foyer.

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THE GOALS

The home, which was built in 1929, had received a complete remodel with its previous owners in 2020. With this in mind, the clients' biggest goal was to update the interiors, keeping it fresh, colorful and fun. "She made very clear, early on, that she wanted more vibrant colors," Plachter says. "She wanted the house to feel happy. And we, in turn, call it the happy house." Other requirements came in the form of incorporating some of the family's previous furniture, including a dining room table, art and family heirlooms. "We definitely sprinkled in the things that they treasured from their old house," she explains.

DETAILS, DETAILS

"It really is a very uplifting house with bright colors and whimsical touches and yet still feels really sophisticated," Plachter says of the design. This is immediately recognized upon entering the foyer, which shines in a tangerine grasscloth wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries (phillipjeffries.com). In



Hickory Chair counter stools set a neutral tone against the candy pink accents.



Another look at the foyer, with an antelope-patterned runner



A sunny corner in the living room features gray, blue and peach hues.

the same room, stunning Nakashima chairs that the clients already owned and treasured sit nearby. Other hints of color come in the form of twin green ottomans, a chartreuse green light fixture from Urban Electric (urbanelectric.com) and a fresh take on animal print: See the antelope-patterned runner ahead. "She loves a touch of animal print. She's not at all a racy gal, but she loves taking some risks. And we love the unexpected," Plachter says of the runner purchased at a local market. "There's something about it that feels timeless but new, and that was our theme throughout the whole house." Looking to the right of the stairs is a high-dimension, glossy blue den. There, the couple spends time catching up on shows and movies. "It's small but so powerful," she says, noting the high-gloss walls from Fine Paints of Europe. An orange-fringed

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DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family home

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Michele Plachter
micheleplachter.com

BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY
Art, dining room
bridgettemayergallery.com

HICKORY CHAIR
Sofa, living room
Sofa, sunroom
Bed and lounge chair, primary bedroom
hickorychair.com

LOUISE GASKILL
Sconces, living room
Chandelier, den
louisegaskill.com

PARISA RUGS AND DECOR
Area rug, living room
parisarugs.com

THIBAUT
Wallpaper, dining room
Wallpaper, kitchen
Entry wallpaper, primary bedroom
Wallpaper, guest bedroom
thibautdesign.com

Clockwise from left: The guest bedroom proves to be a favorite thanks to lattice Thibaut wallpaper and Kassatex bedding; one of the two powder rooms; a blue and white sunroom adds the icing on the cake to the home.

...CONTINUED sofa adds another dimension, along with more nods of chartreuse green—this time in the chairs. Down the hall, a punchy dining room with a pink and orange palm wallcovering served as the source of colorful inspiration for the rest of the abode. The major pink moment transports guests to Miami for dinner, or a warm Hawaiian sunset. And then there's the kitchen, where the coral-pink hues come in the form of hanging pendants that resemble dew drops and a wallcovering behind the white countertops. It appears again inside the see-through cabinets, juxtaposing the crisp white dishes. "This particular part of the house was like a little English cottage. ... It was sweet, but it felt small and closed in. So we opened up the whole space and created a more modern kitchen that is much more functional than what it was," Plachter says, noting that she worked closely with Ernst Brothers (ernstbrothers.com) and Blue Bell Kitchens (bluebellkitchens.com) to

create the exceptional layout. Nearby, Plachter also designed a bar pantry, which reflects and gleams in natural sunlight. Throughout the rest of the first level, the designer worked with the clients to redesign a calming living room and a blue and white sunroom. Upstairs, an office-lounge area for the wife adds touches of blue

and green, and is where she spends time doing paperwork or completing daily tasks. Also on this floor is the primary bedroom, which evokes a tranquil palette of sky blue and gray. An olive tree adds a pop of green to tie it all together. The result? An ode to traditional Main Line homes with an updated flair. ◦

