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Dynamic Duos

Inspired pairings of old with new, traditional with modern, delight and surprise in this Michigan home.

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Like a good soup or a spicy jambalaya, a room needs time to simmer. Interior designer Kathryn Chaplow knows this. She took her sweet time—five years—renovating and decorating her 1930s Tudor cottage in Grand Rapids, Michigan. “Everything has evolved, piece by piece,” she says. “In another five years it will probably look completely different.”

The cinnamon-color door in the stone facade is the first clue that Kathryn’s decorating mix in a spicy one. Inside, exotic curiosities abound, starting in the foyer with a vintage Persian cabinet that houses a special

FAMILY STYLE Kathryn wanted a warm, inviting, and fresh-looking decor for her young family (son Calvin, *left*, is almost 2). The walls and ceiling of the living room, *above*, suggest a summer landscape. Her eclectic mix of furniture speaks to both high style and practicality: The mod Lucite coffee table with rounded edges is safe for Calvin, and the vintage Asian chest is home to his toy animals.



DRAMATIC PAIRINGS TO TRY

- WHITE LACQUER + DARK-STAINED OAK
- EARTHY NEUTRALS + CRIMSON AND SAFFRON
- SPIDERBACK CHAIR + LUCITE TABLE
- COLORLED GLASS + MATCHSTICK BLINDS
- MODERN ART + VINTAGE ASIAN PIECES

HIGH CONTRAST

Chippendale-style chairs get glam treatment with white lacquer and red cut-velvet upholstery, left. They're even more dramatic paired with a handsome dark-stained table.

IMPULSE BUY Kathryn saw the Persian wedding mirror cabinet, below, in a client's home. She liked it so much, she traded design services for it. "I'm attracted to things that are unexpected and have history."



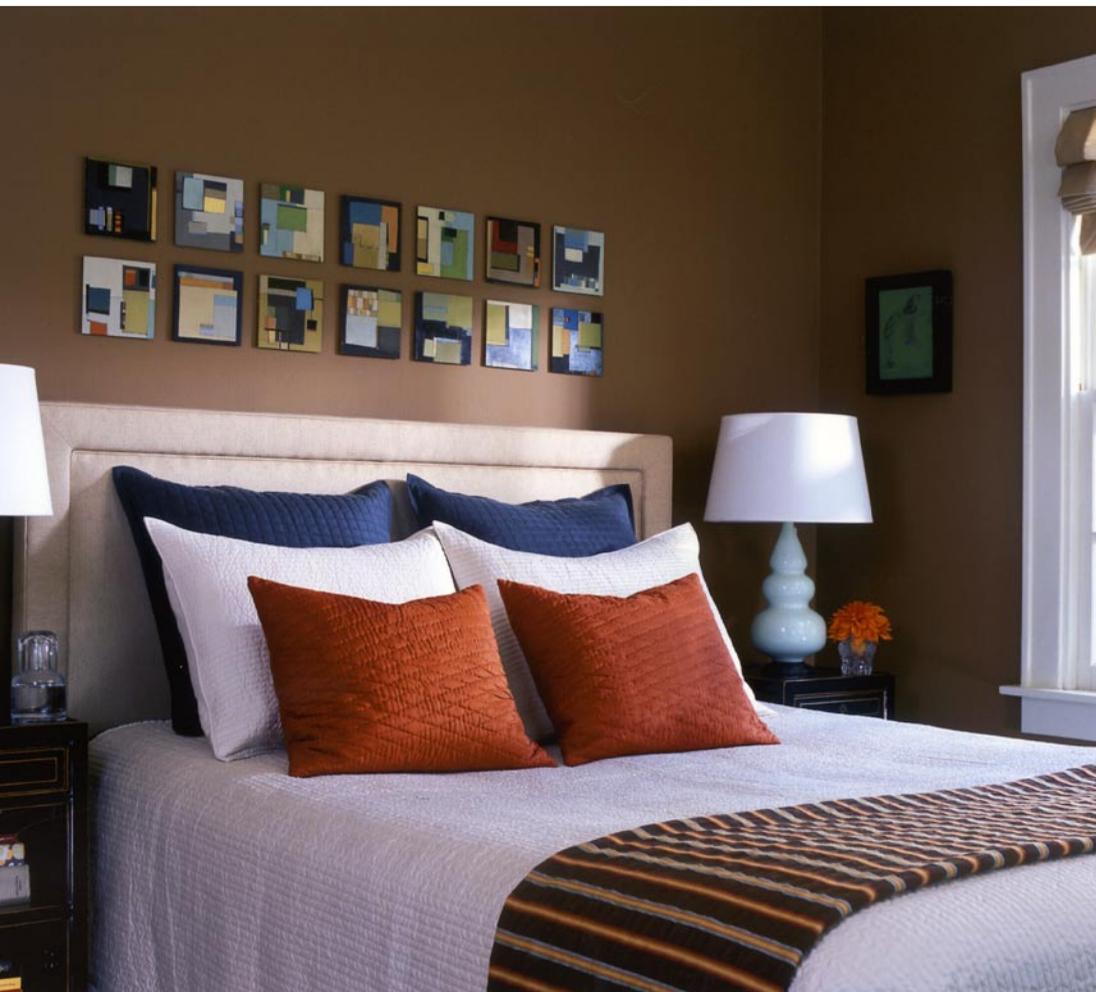
mirror. "Legend has it that a bride would use it to prepare for her wedding day, but after that she was never to look at it again," Kathryn says.

Dramatic juxtapositions of East and West, old with new are everywhere. In the dining room, Chippendale-style chairs pull up to a Mission-style table. In the living room, an über-traditional spiderback chair joins an ultra-modern Lucite table. The common denominator: They speak to Kathryn with a story, a memory, a dare.

Trusting her taste and going slowly allowed Kathryn to create rooms that resonate with history and personality. It's the same advice she gives clients. "If you're on a deadline, you're going to get a different result than if you allow it to develop over time."

COOK'S TOUR Kathryn and her chef husband, Chris, splurged on dark green marble countertops, high-end appliances, and a glass-front refrigerator for an all-new kitchen that's in keeping with the 1930s architecture.





CLOSET COLOR “These are all colors I like to wear.” says Kathryn of the rich earth tones in the master bedroom, *above*. Paintings for artist friends further personalize the space.

FRESH WATER Aqua walls in the bathroom, *right*, recall blue ceilings elsewhere on the first floor. Kathryn uses Roman shades throughout the house for simplicity and tailored good looks. The tiny room kept its original tile floor.

For resources see page 239.



**PICK COLOR LIKE A PRO
FIND YOUR INSPIRATION**

Tempting as it is to start with the wall paint color, resist. Instead, study a favorite rug, fabric, or piece of art—ideally something that will be used in the room. It will present a palette you might otherwise not have put together. Use it to pull colors for the largest elements in the room, such as walls, furniture, and window treatments.

COURT COLOR Go with wall color that you personally relate to, not just something trendy. Paint a sample board and observe the color in the room at different times and places.

LOOK UP Who says a ceiling has to be white? Paint it a shade or two lighter than the walls to make the room seem larger. To mask imperfections, such as a popcorn finish, use a medium tone in flat finish. **For more hints on picking colors, see page 42.**