

# Better Homes & Gardens.

## the ART of COLOR

DREAM  
PALETTES  
FOR  
EVERYDAY  
LIFE

Plant a  
Rainbow  
of Iris  
*p. 106*

The New  
Neutrals  
*p. 98*



SUMMER-READY PATIOS // RHUBARB // EASTER CRAFTS

# Massucco Warner Miller (Los Angeles, CA)

For designer Melissa Warner Rothblum, working in shades of beige isn't the safe decorating choice. It's the adventurous one. "Neutrals can have a lot of punch when you get creative with pattern and scale," she says.

The Los Angeles home Melissa shares with her husband, David, and two young daughters clearly supports her point. There's the illustrated puffer fish wallpaper on dining room walls and the living room's coffee table base that appears to whirl like energetic atoms. "The look is bold," she says, "but easy to live with because the colors are quiet."

By restricting her palette, Melissa is able to focus on pattern, texture, shapes, and shimmer. "I'm a fan of mixing pattern, but I have a method," she says. "My rule of thumb is to always keep the scales of the pattern different. If I choose something big, I don't let anything else compete with that."

In the family room, for instance, Melissa went large with a black-and-white photo of a palm tree that covers an entire wall. The geometric lines on the rug and petite repeat on the sofa play supporting roles.

Melissa says she doesn't equate neutral with colorless. She considers light pink and navy blue neutrals. The pink acts like blush on cheeks, enlivening a room and adding a warm undertone. Navy has the same versatility as a pair of blue jeans: It can be dressed up or down to go with everything. Melissa's advice on keeping it spunky? "Do something unexpected," she says. "I like neutrals when they have personality."



#### TOASTY FINISH

A shot of mushroom gray on the island base warms the white kitchen, above. For sizzle, Melissa covered bar stools in flame silk fabric and played with bursts of red.

#### SHAPELY SEATING

Furniture with curves (instead of color) makes a statement on the back deck and is roomy enough for Melissa, husband David, Isabella, and new baby, Emma, to all pile on.



MELISSA MADE SURE THE COMBO OF STRIPED CURTAINS AND FISH-PRINT WALLPAPER WASN'T BUSY BY STICKING WITH THE SAME COLORS.

**NEW PURPOSE** The dining room was an exercise in repurposing items to create the best possible space. Melissa repurposed a set of vintage chairs in kid-friendly, wipeable vinyl. The sideboard is actually two Dorothy Draper dressers from the master bedroom.



**Drapery:**  
3964-Geneva,  
Color Sterling  
(Platinum Collection)