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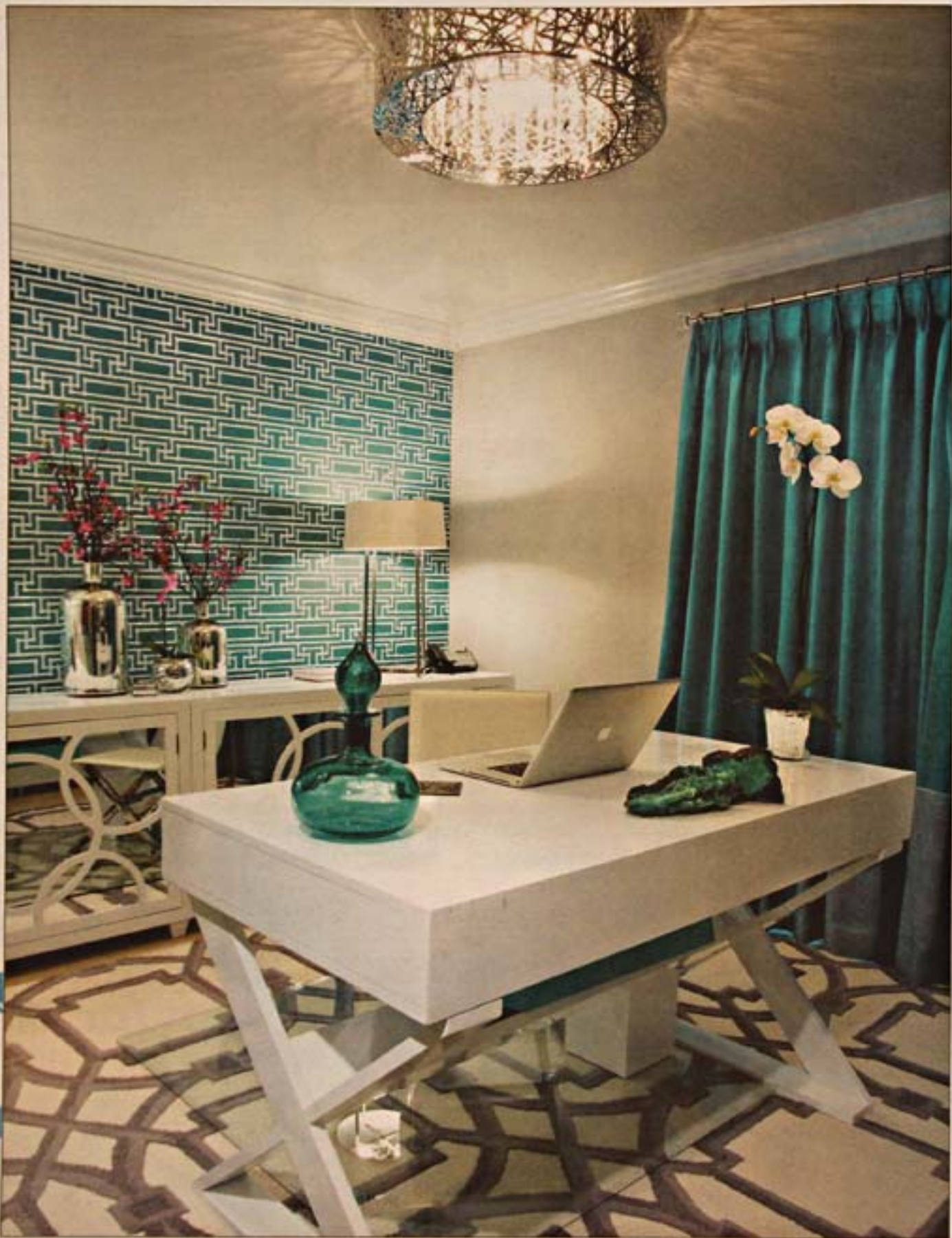
AUGUST 2013



*Color
with clout*

PICTURE-PERFECT *photo walls*

ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTER



The bright wallpaper and drapes are grounded by white furniture in the home office. The homeowner's art and geodes inspired the color choices.

bold and BEAUTIFUL

Story by ALEXANDRIA ABRAMIAN • Photos by LEONARD ORTIZ
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

A CORONA
DEL MAR HOME
INVITES FULLY
SATURATED COLOR
INTO ALMOST
EVERY ROOM.

When interior designer Emily LaMarque got a call from Gwen Forquer asking her to decorate her Corona del Mar home, LaMarque didn't realize this wasn't just a matter of picking paints and fabrics – but more a project that would address the fact that the client was ready to initiate the second phase of her life.

"She was married for a long time, and when her husband passed away, she felt it was time for a fresh start in this home," says LaMarque. That fresh start focused on opening the doors of her three-bedroom, 2,800-square-foot Cape Cod-style home to high-glam ideas that would verge on rock-star swanky.

"She wanted something that would really feel feminine and celebrate her life," says the designer. "She had done the beige faux Italian thing. Now she was ready to do something that was a little more hip and fun."

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Gwen Forquer's dining room features splashes of color against a palette of calming silver grays and white.

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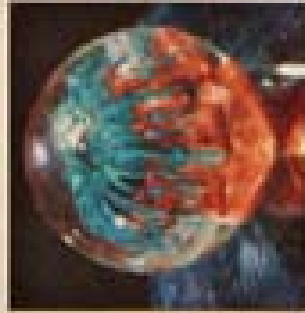
And colorful.

LaMarque took inspiration from Forquer's inherited art and goods collection to inform some of the decisions, and then she came up with a palette of fuchsia, magenta and turquoise, all grounded in a more neutral selection of grays and silvers.

"When I first brought up this color concept, she gave me a look of 'Oh my gosh,' but she went for it," says LaMarque.

"It's a little bit rock star, but is ultimately livable. And we really worked together to incorporate rate elements that would give a sense of a universal global vision."

The bold-toned glamorous vibe hits the minute you walk in the front door and see the living room and its fuchsia velvet chairs and shimmering walls that are papered in silver grasscloth. From there, it's on to the home office, with its geometric patterns and big bursts of turquoise. And then

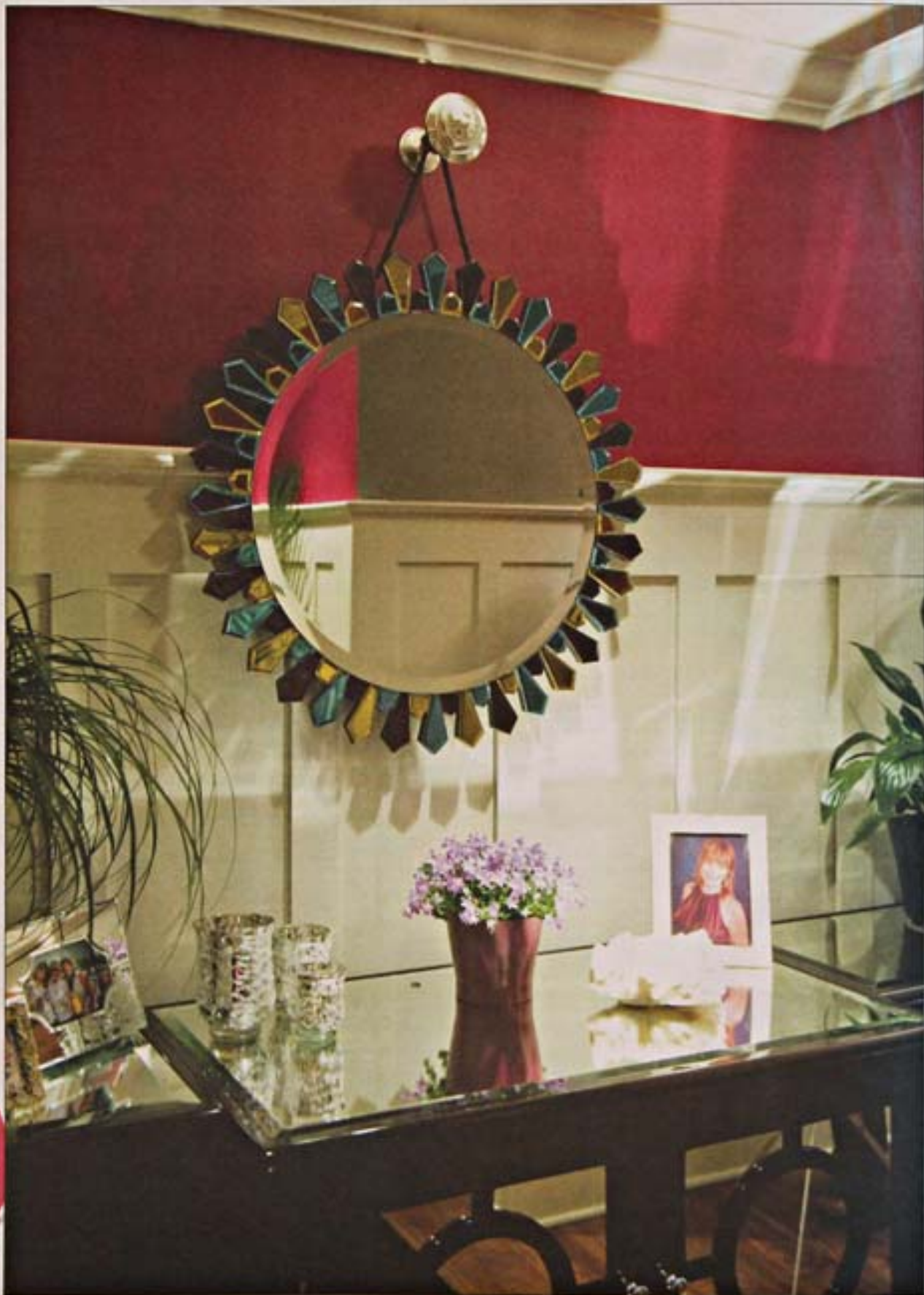


Color filters down to the details throughout the house.



The music room's black, orange and white decor is reflected in the pillows and candles.

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The entry sets the stage for what you find inside: bright colors, mirrored surfaces and glam galore.



The bedroom features a calming palette and a view of Corona del Mar.

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there is the powder room and its plum and silver Romo wallpaper that is "so, so dramatic," says LaMarque.

With a profusion of bold colors throughout the house, both upstairs and down, LaMarque says there is method to all of the modulating tones. "You have to use color strategically," she says.

"Here's the trick: If you're using intense colors like I am here, you need to carry it throughout the house in small doses, so that it connects. Otherwise, if you put different tones in every room, you're going to get a rainbow effect, which is never good." LaMarque sprinkled those saturated pinks throughout the home, even outdoors, with chair cushions and bougainvillea. In smaller doses, judicious amounts of turquoises are also carried through in different rooms.

Her other multihue requirement?

Ground it all with neutrals. "In this house I used warm grays, silvers, and then blacks and whites," she says. "That forms a base and a rest for everything else. And it gives your eye a chance to rest so that you can really enjoy the bright colors."

And perhaps no space in the house captures the client quite as effectively as the music room. Forquer composes music and plays the piano, and LaMarque created a high-contrast room with lots of glamorous details like the silver-backed glass mosaic tile that surrounds the



Gwen Forquer's home is filled with feminine details and personal touches. The intensity of the colors is offset by the silver gray and white used throughout the home.

fireplace. "I get that this is bold design, but it's also accessible and comfortable for Gwen," says LaMarque. "It was a departure from how she lived, but ultimately one that really works for her now."

Tips on using color

Adding color in your home can be daunting, so we talked with interior designer Emily LaMarque about how to do it right.

Q: If someone wants to use color but doesn't know where to begin, what is a good starting point?

A: Choose something that has a color you love as a starting point for inspiration. It could be a vase, a rug, fabric, or just a color that you love. From there, combine one or two other colors with it and ground it with a neutral. Don't be afraid to go bold!

Q: Should a person think room by room when considering color, or the whole house?

A: Both! Each room needs to work on its own, but the house should really come together holistically. One easy way to accomplish this is to make sure one of your colors is a common thread and appears in every room of the home, whether it's a bright color or a neutral. The color acts as baseline or a constant that connects all the spaces. Color should feel like it flows room to room, even if there are a number of different colors used.

Q: How can color be used tastefully - in other words, not overdone?

A: A little color can go a long way. I love using bright colors, but the brighter they are the less surface area they tend to take up. Try limiting the palette to three or four colors at the most, and always use a neutral when you are using saturated colors, whether it's a white, black, gray, taupe or a soft color. The neutral creates a place of rest amongst all of the vibrancy.

Q: Do you have any suggestions on what not to do when introducing color in a decorating scheme?

A: Don't assume that the only way to get color into a room is by painting the walls. While it's a great quick fix, try using bold splashes of color in other dramatic ways - on curtains, a lampshade, a brightly painted table. One of the most impactful ways to use color is to have it where you least expect it.

- N.G.