



BETSY  
WENTZ

DESIGN  
HAPPY

# DESIGN HAPPY

COLORFUL HOMES  
FOR THE MODERN FAMILY



\$45.00 U.S.

Jacketless Hardcover  
8 1/2 x 11 in, 224 Pages  
200 Color Photographs  
Pub Date: April 2023



BETSY WENTZ  
Foreword by TORI MELLOTT

# CONTENTS

FOREWORD, BY TORI MELLOTT ... 7

INTRODUCTION ... 9

ARLINGTON ... 10

BLACKWOOD FARM ... 28

BUNKER HILL ... 44

CAMPBELL CREEK ... 60

DOGWOOD ... 80

EVERGLADES ... 94

MOSS TRAIL ... 110

PHILLIPS CABIN ... 124

PULPIT ROCK ... 140

RABBIT HILL ... 162

ROSE LANE ... 184

WINTER COVE ... 200

SOURCES ... 222

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ... 223



A deck connects the main bedroom to a bonus guest area above the garage. Here we created a private seating area that allows a panoramic view of the property.



# CAMPBELL CREEK

## HOUSE MEETS COLOR

In a color-loving designer's own home, there's no such thing as too much pattern.

My own Sewickley, Pennsylvania, home is a convergence of all my favorite design lessons: color, pattern, modern-meets-traditional, and, with four busy kids, a whole lot of functionality. The way we landed on this house, though, was a bit of a surprise. We had just finished renovating another house. I was out jogging and saw a "For Sale" sign. I've lived in this area my whole life and had never noticed this property. So, I ran up the driveway, and there was a very ordinary 1970s structure—but it was on a beautiful lot. I fell in love with the piece of land, and we purchased it. After the Great Recession hit, though, we put off renovations, and this allowed us time to live in the home and see what we needed to change. We finally moved in the night we had our youngest daughter, Marlowe.



BENJAMIN MOORE PAINT COLORS, FROM TOP: Vermilion 2002-10, Downpour Blue 2063-20, Simply White 2143-70, Crocus 1404, Vine Green 2034-20, Royal Fuchsia 2078-30.



My kids all play sports and are constantly in and out of the house's side door. To contain all their gear, I designed floor-to-ceiling lockers, each covered in a different shade of glossy paint. This truly practical element becomes like a piece of art, adding a profusion of color that isn't often seen in modern homes.



The kitchen area had its limitations, as it was part of the original structure and required us to leave the low ceiling height. To open the space, we added several windows on the back wall then placed an oversize island in the center to provide ample prep surface and an additional spot to eat. The backsplash tile runs all the way to the ceiling, creating a cohesive feel.

The island base was painted blue to tie in the colors from the dining room, while custom, pink-patterned stools add a dose of whimsy.



Inside, this very old house has a traditional layout. An enormous center hall welcomes you as you enter the front door, with a large formal living room to the right and a more casual family room to the left. A dramatic, wide staircase is center stage, with incredible, original leaded-glass windows overlooking the backyard. While the bones of the house were amazing, the décor was staid and needed an update.

We started in the center hall, where the client had a vision for a colorful rug to greet guests in the entryway. We chose a large, vintage, overdyed rug in fuchsia. As for wallpaper, we wanted something that would fit in with the natural setting of the home while not reading as boring. We settled on Cole & Son's Woods and Pears in silver/gray. It provides the perfect backdrop for all the wonderful colors to come.

A favorite piece in the house is a clock that belonged to the husband's great-grandfather. This grandfather clock had been passed around the family and no one really wanted it. A dark wood clock certainly did not fit with our vision for the house, but when I suggested we lacquer it a color, everyone got excited! As our color palette for the entry and adjoining living room and family room cemented, we felt that a bright yellow citron would be the perfect complement to the spaces.

## DESIGN LESSON

### Think before Tossing

In many instances, an existing item can be reused or repurposed in another location. My mom always said, "If you buy something you love, you'll find a place for it."

- Existing mirrors, chests, and nightstands are prime candidates for painting. Consider painting the frame on an old piece of artwork to modernize it. A few coats of high-shine paint can transform a piece.
- Although reupholstering is not necessarily a budget option (it can be almost as expensive as buying new), covering an old family heirloom with new fabric is one of my favorite ways to personalize a sentimental piece—and it's earth-friendly too.

Don't be afraid to mix and match the old with the new. In the powder room we sanded down and lacquered an old mirror in a soft lilac.





We paired the neon citron wallpaper with two custom ottomans covered in a lively chevron pattern to pull it all together. The husband, an avid gardener, keeps many of his plants in this room, which makes it feel magical.

Just off the dining room is the sunroom, which has floor-to-ceiling windows and the most incredible tiled floor. We didn't want to do too much to this room, as it was so beautiful already. But, since you can see a sliver of it from the front door, I wanted to use some color. We took a chance with neon citron, textured wallpaper, and it paid off! One of my favorite spaces in the house, it is clean, bright, and appealing.