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House Beautiful

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plus
A PORTFOLIO OF
STORAGE PANTRIES
THAT HIDE EVERY. LITTLE. THING.

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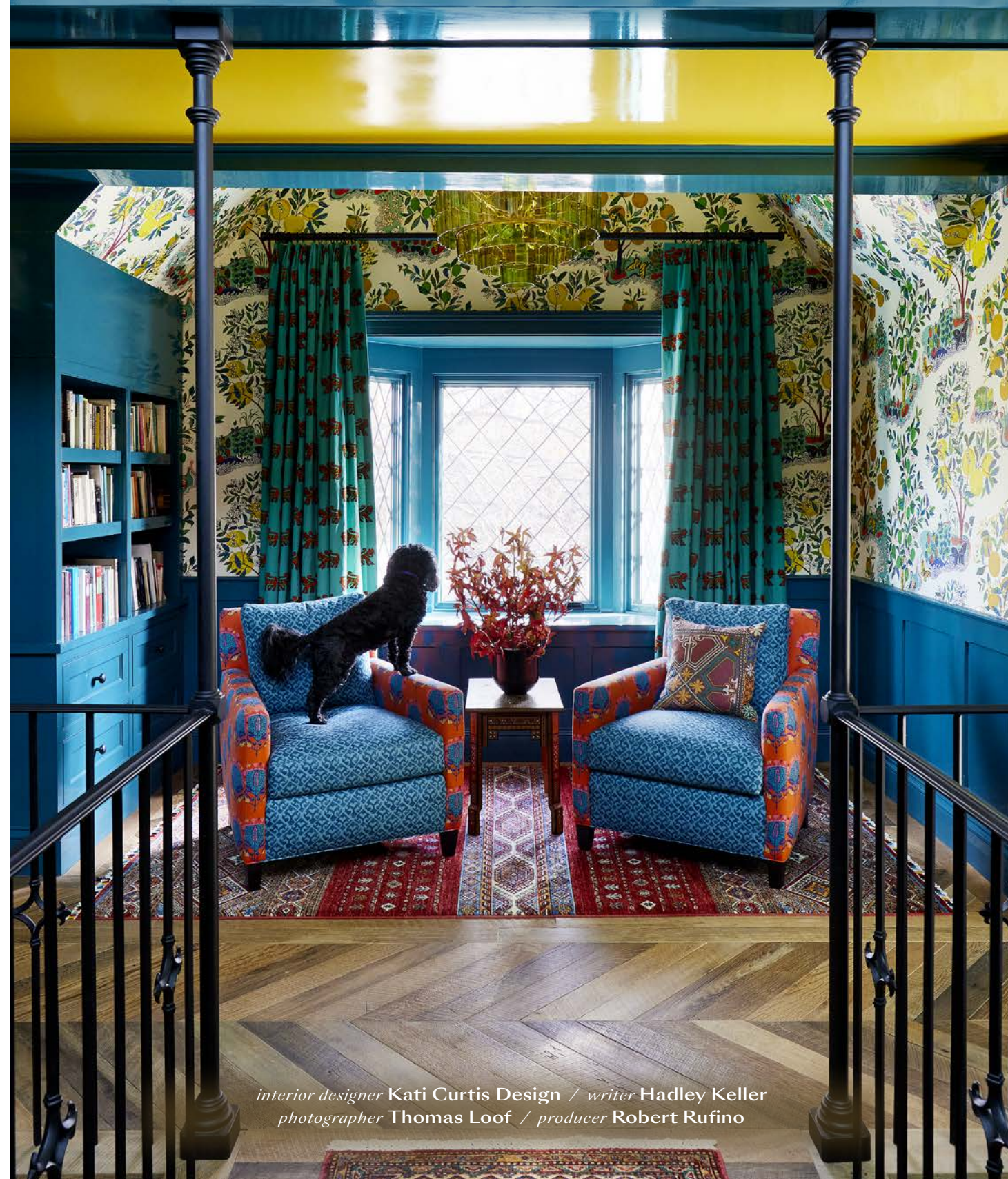
DESIGNER
NICOLE WHITE
DRAMATICALLY
UPDATES A
FLORIDA KITCHEN.
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BATH
Dark Burgundy by Benjamin Moore gives a moody feel to the main bathroom in this Boston-area home by New York designer Kati Curtis. **Chandelier:** ABC Carpet & Home. **Curtains:** Thibaut. **Rug:** Loloi. **Sconces:** Circa Lighting. **Cabinetry:** custom.

> **LANDING**
With custom wrought-iron pillars, a second-floor bridge across the carved-out stairwell appears suspended from the ceiling. **Wallpaper:** Josef Frank from Schumacher. **Curtains:** Clare Louise Frost. **Rug:** Landry & Arcari. **Chairs:** Lee Industries, upholstered in Carolina Irving (blue) and Tulu Textiles (red) fabrics.

Bright Young Thing

Creative thinking gives a cramped Tudor colorful new life.



interior designer Kati Curtis Design / writer Hadley Keller
photographer Thomas Loof / producer Robert Rufino

LIVING ROOM

A custom sofa was upholstered in two fabrics: **Christopher Farr Cloth** on the back, and a performance **Osborne & Little** print on the seat “so you can sit on the furniture and spill coffee and breastfeed,” says Curtis. **Wallcovering:** **Christopher Farr Cloth** printed on vinyl. **Trim paint:** **Fine Paints of Europe**. **Pillows:** **Clare Louise Frost**. **Art:** Alex Katz. **Sconces:** **Circa Lighting**. **Console, table, and chandelier:** vintage. **Love seat and armchairs:** custom and vintage, respectively, in **Tulu Textiles** (outer) and **Thibaut** performance fabric (inner). **Rug:** vintage.



LANDING

An oil-based lacquer from **Fine Paints of Europe** catches the light from the window well. **Chandelier:** **South Loop Loft**. **Runner:** **Landry & Arcari**. **Photograph:** George Raab. **Painting:** Barbara Trachtenberg.



“I want no white walls.”

THAT WAS THE FIRST DIRECTIVE KATI CURTIS’S clients gave when she began work on their 1930s Tudor in Brookline, Massachusetts (which Curtis found on Zillow and “convinced them to buy”). “That,” says the pattern-loving designer, “was music to my ears!” One hitch: The home’s original layout didn’t allow in much light, which could have caused a color-rich scheme to feel claustrophobic.

“It was a very inward-looking building,” explains architect J.B. Clancy of ART Architects, who was hired to help give the home a more modern flow, “and it was cut up into tons of little spaces with no access to the outside.” Curtis

and Clancy came up with an unconventional solution, carving out a central stairwell above the entryway. The space acts as a sort of interior courtyard around which the rest of the rooms revolve. But the team didn’t stop there: They looked upward, too, puncturing the center of the home’s roof to create a light well (graced with custom stained-glass windows) that floods the house with sunlight from the inside out. “The rest of the rooms became more intimate spaces around this central hub,” explains Clancy.

“The starting point of the design was the Citrus Garden wallpaper,” says Curtis of Josef Frank’s iconic print that

swathes both levels of the stairwell: “It was the perfect baseline for everything.” Pulling from the many hues within the pattern, Curtis outfitted the surrounding rooms in rich jewel tones and layered vintage furniture and textiles that add depth to the client’s colorful art collection. High-gloss finishes give room after room a polished look, and help in bouncing light into every corner. Curtis worked closely with Clancy and a team of artisans to perfect textural details like wood beams and wrought-iron trim, which add a necessary edge to a style Curtis refers to as “Millennial Gothic.”

For all the home’s highbrow details and fine finishes, it’s still geared toward family living: “*Everything* is upholstered in a performance fabric,” says Curtis. On certain statement

pieces, like sofas and dining chairs, she upholstered the backs in traditional textiles—“so when you walk into the space you see the gorgeous patterns”—but then covered the seats in durable options—“so you can sit on it all and don’t have to worry about spills.”

In addition to the light well, the new layout features a number of useful rooms rather than an open floor plan: “**The house is actually quite small, so we had to carve out a lot of different areas,**” says Curtis, who considered how the family’s needs might evolve when designating purposes. One space, in red lacquer, is presently a playroom for the family’s two young children, “but could one day turn into a dining room,” the designer points out. Now that’s planning ahead. ■



A BELOVED PATTERN WAS PRINTED ON VINYL FOR DURABILITY.

KITCHEN
Curtis devised a rich custom green from Fine Paints of Europe for the kitchen cabinetry. **Range:** Wolf. **Counter stools:** Lee Industries, in Perennials fabric. **Backsplash:** FLM Ceramics. **Faucets:** Brizo. **Pendants:** Circa Lighting. **Countertops:** quartzite.

Too Much Pattern Is Never Enough

“The trick to mixing them is to focus not just on color,” says Curtis, but on texture: “The matte of the tile makes a really great contrast against the high-gloss cabinetry,” she explains. Velvet upholstery feels at home against hand-scraped oak floors, while botanical colors and motifs on the wallpaper play off the landscaping.



1. KITCHEN

The green color picks up on the wallpaper in the adjacent living room. **Refrigerator:** [Sub-Zero](#) with custom metal panels. **Sink:** [Kohler](#). **Hardware:** [Sun Valley Bronze](#).

2. DINING ROOM

Curtis's custom hand-scraped oak floors in a herringbone pattern lend vintage-inspired texture. **Chairs:** backs in [Anthony George Home](#) fabric, fronts in [Crypton velvet](#). **Table:** [Clubcu](#). **Chandelier:** vintage.

3. BATHROOM

"What I love about Moroccan **tile** is the color is never the same," says Curtis, who chose this textural purple from [Mosaic House](#) for the walls of a secondary bath. **Fixture:** [Rohl](#). **Shower curtain:** [Anthropologie](#).

4. BEDROOM

A custom mural gives the bedroom a softer feel than the richer hues in the rest of the home. **Bedding:** [ABC Carpet & Home](#). **Pillows:** [Clare Louise Frost](#). **Bed, sconce, nightstand, vase, and art:** vintage.

5. EXTERIOR

Despite the major interior reconfiguration, the Tudor-style home appears unchanged from the outside.

> PLAYROOM

In the current-day playroom, Curtis came up with built-in storage that can later house servingware if the space is used as a dining room. **Vinyl wallpaper:** custom, [Brett Design](#). **Drapery:** [Christopher Farr Cloth](#). **Window seat:** [Holland & Sherry](#) fabric, with vintage and [Jonathan Adler](#) throw pillows. **Side table:** [Herman Miller](#). **Chair and chandeliers:** vintage.



MEMBER EXCLUSIVE!
To see more never-before-seen shots of this home, go to [House Beautiful.com/bright-young-thing](#).