





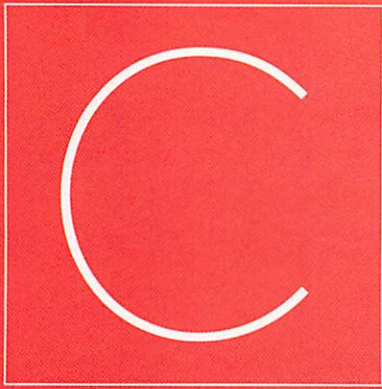
Living Color

For the evolving home of a growing (and green) Main Line family, interior designer Mona Ross Berman imagined a plain palette splashed with brilliant hues—and homemade art

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Chestnut Hill interior designer Mona Ross Berman insists, rather modestly, that there's no such thing as a "signature" Mona Ross Berman design. But the preppy modern style of Charlie and Cynthia Szoradi's Wayne home begs to differ. After Charlie, a green architect and founder of Greenandsave.com, pulled off an eco-conscious doubling of the house's size, Cynthia, a decor-savvy realtor, asked Mona to blend the old with the new. The result is a seamless and chic interplay of pattern and color, heirloom and contemporary, classic and kid-friendly, elegant and artistic (thanks to many original works by Charlie and son Calvin). In the end, the house was perfect for the young family—which, in itself, is signature Mona Ross Berman.

From previous spread Above the mantle, framed negative reprints of Charlie's sketches of travels abroad add modern oomph to a traditional fireplace. Mona had the cushioned bench, an auction score, repainted and reupholstered in a bold trellis repeat. The classic diamond sisal rug is Stark; the orchid and Niermann Weeks planter come from nearby Valley Forge Flowers, Cynthia's favorite. For more information, see page 88.



Above left Calvin, Cynthia and Charlie at their front door. **Above right** Among the home's many antique and vintage pieces—reuse is always the most eco-chic option—are a wingback chair, a turned-leg English arm sofa, a glass-and-brass coffee table, and a George Segal painting and gilded mirror, two wins from Freeman's. The couch's custom throw pillows and high-gloss Moroccan side table are Mona's own original designs.

Opposite In the master bath, an Osborne & Little wallpaper backs a glass cabinet and adds boudoir sophistication. "Normally, that would be a throwaway spot in a room, but we took it as an opportunity to do something fun and unexpected," says Mona. "There's so much beautiful wallpaper available. You don't have to put it all over an entire room to make an impact."







“**Wallpaper** can create the illusion of architecture, defining a space when you really need it,” says Mona. In the dining room, the wall’s woven pattern boldly contrasts with the elegant toile curtain panels and one of four-year-old Calvin’s famous paintings (opposite). The budding environmentalist uses no-VOC craft paints for his artwork. The dining table and chairs belonged to Cynthia’s mother; the tiered console came from the Menagerie in the Marketplace Design Center.



Above The sustainably designed kitchen features Lancaster-made mirror-backed cabinetry, radiant travertine floors, low-e casement windows—and Chinese Chippendale-style chairs that graced Dorothy Draper’s 1948 redesign of the Greenbrier. More Calvin originals hang along the bank of backyard-facing windows.

Right Charlie and Cynthia’s shared office is another opportunity for confident color that includes tiger-stripe wallpaper, a classic Rose Cummings reissue. Atop a watermelon Blu Dot console are Charlie’s Stretch-a-sketch books and an elephant painting from National Geographic’s online gift shop, Novica.com.

Opposite Mona calls the house “a consistent mix of modern pieces,” like these vintage Bertoia chairs, an Arman painting from Freeman’s, and bright contrasting accessories, including a miniature pagoda Cynthia spotted in Winterthur’s catalog and repainted a brilliant yellow.







IN 1969, A YOUNG PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECT NAMED JOEL LEVINSON BUILT AN ICONOCLASTIC "ARBOR HOUSE" FOR A YOUNG MELROSE PARK FAMILY. FORTY YEARS LATER, THE HOME'S ENDURING MODERNITY OFFERS A VALUABLE LESSON IN TIMELESS DESIGN