

COLOR THERAPY



A BRIGHT, SUNNY JERSEY SHORE HOUSE UPLIFTS
WITH A PALETTE THAT POPS

WRITTEN BY MARISA SANDORA · INTERIORS BY MONA ROSS BERMAN · PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONNY VALIANT



Benjamin Moore's Fresno enlivens the mudroom.

THIS IMAGE AND OPPOSITE: Family photos are hung against grasscloth above the wet bar in a corner of the living room. The white furniture and woven vinyl rug provide a neutral base for brightly colored pillow and curtain fabrics.



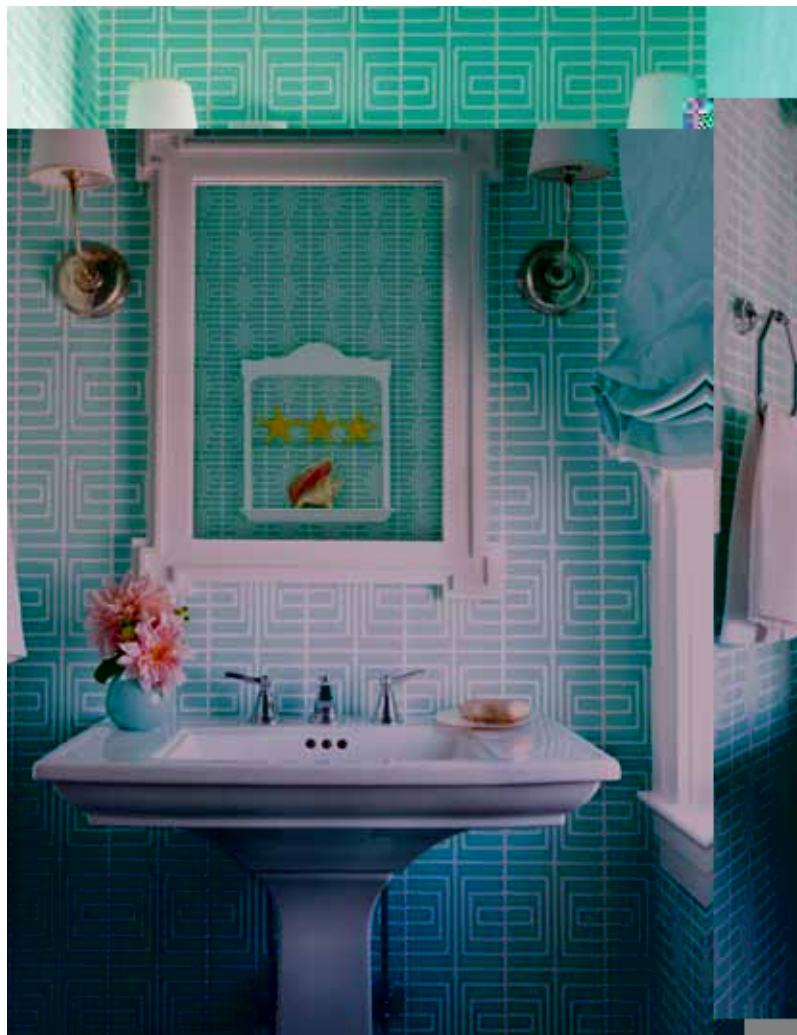
As the owner of two high-end women's clothing stores, Maureen Doron is surrounded by color. Her stores, called Skirt, carry lines like Milly, Trina Turk, Diane von Furstenberg and Tory Burch—classics with a modern twist that deliver vibrant hues and interesting patterns.

When one of Doron's best customers "who always purchased my own personal favorites" mentioned one day that she was an interior designer, Doron knew they were drawn to the same colors and styles. That customer was Philadelphia-based designer Mona Ross Berman. "I had never used an interior designer before," says Doron, "but I knew that we had the same taste and that I liked her." Berman eased Doron into decorating, helping her with her home in Bryn Mawr, Pa., and some remodeling of one of her stores. When Doron and her husband decided to build a beach house on the Jersey Shore in Strathmere, Doron comissioned Berman to decorate it "soup to nuts," Doron explains. "Mona says it was fun because I let her run with it."

And run she did, with a high-energy palette of orange, yellow and turquoise against a white background, a design based on a 1960s table »



The custom-made dining table is fashioned after a vintage one that Berman spotted in Miami, providing the color inspiration for the entire house.



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THIS PAGE: “A beach house is fun to do because people tend to take themselves less seriously,” says Berman. The zigzag, Missoni-esque pattern on the floor of the master bedroom was painted with Salmon Berry and White Dove, both by Benjamin Moore. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The vintage dresser in the foyer is mid-20th-century Danish modern; the master bedroom headboard is upholstered in Rose by Raoul Textiles; geometric wallpaper (Recessed from Studio Printworks) adds zing to the powder room; the homeowner’s love of fashion inspired the Yves Saint Laurent posters in the master bedroom.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The guest room beckons in sunny yellow; dashes of pink were added to the yellow, orange and turquoise color scheme; Fermob's Costa extension table adds a pop of turquoise to the deck.



that Berman found on a trip to Miami. "When she showed me a picture of the table, she had me hook, line and sinker," says Doron.

Berman's plan was to give the home a "1960s-California-surfer-chic vibe," she explains. "I wanted to do something fresh and different and show that there was more than one way to do a beach house. Even though this home is at the Jersey Shore, it feels like it could be in Malibu or somewhere else." And thankfully, Berman's client was the sort who is willing to take risks.

"I love color," says Doron. "I own a women's clothing store. I'm not afraid of it. But Mona was smart in that if you really look at the house, the base pieces are all white or neutral. We layered on the color with fabrics and accessories so in case I get sick of it, I'm not locked into it for 30 years."

But for now, Berman's dynamic design is perfect for this active young family. "I have three kids who get up at the crack of dawn, and I'm always tired," says Doron. "But when I walk up the stairs to the kitchen and living room in the morning all bleary-eyed and I see the light streaming in and all the color, I instantly feel uplifted, and a smile breaks out on my face. It's a fun house to be in." +