



The front door had a plain wood tone, so Abbe amped it up with a lipstick-red door. "An entry needs to live up to what's in the rest of the house; it sets the tone for the rest of the house," she says.

Style in Bloom

VISIT A HOME THAT
REFLECTS THE COLORFUL,
LIVELY STYLE OF THE
FESTIVE SQUARE OUTSIDE
ITS WINDOWS.

By Meryl Schoenbaum
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D

o you enjoy going to the Farmer's Market?

It's hard to resist the allure of baskets bursting with colorful fruits, vegetables, flowers, essential oils and organic wares. Imagine living amid the sights, sounds and scents of such a charming place. There is an area in downtown Dallas called the Farmers Market District where having a view of a vibrant marketplace comes with the territory.

Interior designer Abbe Fenimore of Studio Ten 25 was contacted by the owner of a three-level townhouse with a rooftop deck in the Farmers Market District to decorate her living space.

"The owner, a single woman, wanted to come home to a place that was hip, bright, fresh and colorful. She also wanted the rooftop deck to reflect all of the color, pattern and fun things going on down at the market," Abbe says.

Even though the townhome has the façade of a historic brownstone, it was newly built. When Abbe came on board in the summer of 2013, its construction was already 80% complete. The entire Farmers Market neighborhood was



"This room drives home how important it is to use pieces in the right scale for the room," Abbe says. She kept the sofa in a neutral color to allow for changing tastes. The table lamps presented a challenge as they also needed to be the proper scale, texture and tone. These 3-foot-high lamps in a gray/brown smoky quartz with big square acrylic bases fit the bill perfectly.



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undergoing a renovation at the time. It had been torn down and rebuilt to look more modern, with retailers, restaurants, yoga studios and other popular establishments.

“The client wanted a home that reflected the urban neighborhood around her but had a feminine, sophisticated vibe with unique pieces,” Abbe explains. “She was originally from up north, surrounded by darker wood and dark colors, so she wanted this home to be fun, bright and cool. She loves to entertain, and she wanted her guests to find it fun—a place she is excited to see when she comes home—but she didn’t know how to do that without overdoing it. That’s why she contacted me.”

Level 1: The Entry

As you enter the home, an emerald-green runner commands your attention. “We built the entry and guestroom that opens up to the main entry entirely around this stunning runner,” Abbe says. “I love the black and white color palette that we layered upon in this space, and with the emerald-green accent color and red front door, we knew that this was going to make for a grand entrance.”

A graphic Kelly Wearstler wallpaper called “Channels” was the first element selected for the guest room. “We knew that we wanted a basic black and white color palette, but how do you make something so aggressive work? So we began to layer the room with soft palm-leaf patterns, Mongolian fur for texture, a touch of leopard print and a welcoming ‘bonjour’ pillow to pull the room together,” Abbe says.

Level 2: The Main Floor

Abbe wanted the main floor to feel open but cohesive, since it was

OPPOSITE | The landing at the top of the stairs had a boring nook in an odd shape. Abbe repeated the butterfly wallpaper from the bathroom to liven it up and added lollipop agates as a whimsical touch. The result reflects the designer’s philosophy to make the most of architectural details.

RIGHT | This nook with a built-in shelf is a prime example of making the best of an awkward space, Abbe says. She made it into a desk space by a window with draperies and added a mini version of the large living-room quartz lamp.



“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT WE WANTED THE SPACE TO BE OPEN AND FLOW BUT NOT LOOK STERILE, SO COLOR AND PATTERN WAS THE BEST WAY TO TIE IT ALL TOGETHER.”

to be the main entertaining level. “In the main living space, we needed plenty of seating, and it needed to showcase the amazing view of downtown Dallas,” she says. “Once the main pieces were selected, the overall look began to develop, and I think we were both surprised with how bold we were in our final selections. We focused on keeping balance by utilizing basics like solid-white bedding in the master bedroom; crisp, white draperies throughout; and furniture with classic lines and shapes.”

Artistic wallpaper patterns function as statement pieces in the rooms. “We knew the design [idea] was bold, but we didn’t [want] it to look sloppy or gaudy, so we started with our favorite pattern in each room and built [the décor] from there,” Abbe explains. “We wanted the patterns to be the wow factor and for the other elements to accent them, ultimately letting them shine.”

Abbe started with Christian Lacroix’s “Butterfly Parade” wallpaper from Designers Guild in the guest powder room,

The dining room table shows how to make something old look chic and modern. The base of the table, found at a vintage shop, is made of old vineyard vine roots, and Abbe had glass cut for the top to give it a modern style. She brought in a bench in the same polished-nickel finish as the chairs and repeated the butterfly pattern as the upholstery fabric.





BELOW | In the guest room, the emerald-green accessories tie into an inspiration-piece runner (not shown). Abbe started with black and white elements and built off of them to layer. “The natural light allowed us to push the limits; they wouldn’t have worked in a dark room,” she says.

OPPOSITE | The sitting area in the guest room to the right of the bed continues the blend of sleek with jungle accents. The sculptural martini side table is from West Elm.



and the rest of the décor grew from there. “The wallpaper made everything come together; it created a wow factor, and we used quite a bit of it,” she says. “The home wouldn’t look the same without it.”

She says the challenge in working with so much wallpaper is where to stop with the pattern. “You have to put the brakes on with the color; you have to be careful in how you use color and wallpaper,” she says. “I tell my clients they have to commit to three to five years to love it.”

Level 3: The Master Bedroom

The designer wanted the master bedroom to have a different look from the rest of the home, so she decided to spread her creative wings to the max.

“The living space is bold, cool and fun, but not everyone goes into her master bedroom, so I went for something different, a more tone-on-tone look,” Abbe says. “I used soft, creamy white paint; floral wallpaper on the ceiling; a brass chandelier with a modern ‘Sputnik’ design; a high-gloss bed; two dressers in black glass; white bedding; simple, layered, geometric prints and a settee at the foot of the bed.”

Although the homeowner was hesitant about the bold design choices at first, Abbe earned her trust along the way, and two years later she is still “giddy and proud” about the way it turned out.

“She sent me an email with text in all caps that said, ‘Wow I love it, love it, love it!’” Abbe says. “She even sent me photos of herself with her dad in her favorite spaces. This is one of my favorite projects; there were no design limits. It may not be everyone’s taste, but her opinion is what counts.”

See Sources, page 126.

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The master bedroom features a gallery wall opposite the bed. The homeowner had the Marilyn print and some others, while Abbe found the Chanel perfume and floral prints. She reupholstered the chairs in a leopard-print cowhide.



Abbe keeps a drawer of fabric swatches from showroom visits, and she pulled this fuchsia Robert Allen one for the master bedroom loveseat. Abbe finished the room with gold accents and a mirror. She loves to bring in metal pieces for a touch of glamour.

GET THE LOOK

DESIGNER ABBE FENIMORE SHARES HER TIPS FOR RECREATING THIS LOOK IN YOUR OWN HOME.

• **DON'T COUNT OUT CUSTOM.** Custom-made furniture pieces can save you lots of time and money when it comes to finding the perfect piece. Reach out to local upholstery shops; most of them can easily build pieces to fit your space from a picture of something you love and save you hours in searching for the right piece.

• **REUSE AND REUPHOLSTER.** Do you have a piece you love but it just isn't right for the space anymore? Reupholster it with an updated fabric in a fun floral or bold solid velvet for a fresh, new look.

• **GO FOR IT!** Do you love the look of a bold and colorful room but don't feel sure you can create that feel in your home? Incorporate that wallpaper you've been obsessing over! Layer bold pieces with textures and complementing patterns to tie it all together.

• **KEEP YOUR MAIN PIECES SIMPLE.** Keeping your main furniture pieces basic and simple will allow you to layer the bold color and pattern we used in this home. We suggest starting with a fabric like the Christian Lacroix "Butterfly Parade" as a jumping-off point for other colors. We played