



# WINNING *personality*

BRILLIANT LAYERING AND A DIALED-UP TAKE ON CLASSIC COLOR COMBOS MAKE DESIGNER **AMANDA REYNAL'S** HOME A MASTER CLASS IN GIVING A PLAIN-JANE SPACE HEAD-TO-TOE CHARACTER. WE'VE TAKEN NOTES FOR YOU.



"I'm always drawn to symmetry," says Amanda, who likes to anchor a room's design with a pair of matching pieces, such as ottomans, chairs, or tables.

## TWO-COLOR *scheme*

Amanda Reynal's sunroom illustrates how a careful mix of diverse materials and patterns can energize a disciplined palette of beige and white. The most pronounced motif, a bold ikat on the ottomans, contrasts with an antelope-pattern rug, while the curtains and sofa bring subtle prints of different sizes into play. The woven chairs, grass-cloth wallcovering, and wood table add texture.





Pay attention to shapes: Amanda contrasts curvy sofas with square-back armchairs for visual interest.



GRASS CLOTH IN GOLD FEELS SPECIAL AND TIES THE BAR NICHE TO THE REST OF THE LIVING ROOM.



Neutral backdrops put the spotlight on Amanda's art collection.

**T**lain is definitely not a word that comes to mind when entering interior designer Amanda Reynal's Des Moines home. But that's exactly what it was before she got her hands on it. "In terms of the architecture, the house's interior is very vanilla," she says of the 1970s two-story that flippers had renovated into a minimal white canvas. The East Coast native—who has a Northeast-meets-Midwest (with a hint of Palm Beach) design style—welcomed the challenge to transform the blank slate.

On the first floor, the free-flowing layout led Amanda to a palette that was somewhat unconventional for a family who typically embraces color. Consistent neutrals, anchored by grass cloth on most of the walls and boldly punctuated with black and white, unify the living spaces. Upstairs, however, Amanda indulged the family's usual love of playful, energetic color against white walls.

In nearly every room, you'll find a standout pattern in the spotlight and a mix of supporting patterns and textures. The result is a home that feels warm, dynamic, and anything but boring.

## BLACK and WHITE

Amanda's living room is a case study in bold contrasts but doesn't take itself too seriously.

### WARM IT UP

"Black and white can be cold, but natural elements make it warm and livable," Amanda says of her use of a burled wood table, grass cloth on the walls, and the floral pattern on the chairs.

### PLAY UP CONTRAST

If you opt for dark or black walls, go lighter for curtains and sofas so the room doesn't feel heavy. Amanda's white lacquered ceiling and glossy white trim help brighten the space too.

### APPEAL TO TOUCH

Everything in the room has a tactile quality, including the tape-trimmed linen curtains and nubby jute and wool rug. "A welcoming room appeals to touch as much as sight," she says.





“I like to have ceiling fixtures, wall lights, and table lamps to balance the light throughout a space.”

AMANDA REYNAL



## WORK *in* METALS

“I love the light and reflection that come from adding a little sparkle,” Amanda says, noting the mirrored surfaces and metal finishes like the brushed brass in the powder room. “Metallic elements look especially pretty at night,” she says. “By day, they feel a bit quieter.” The wallpaper’s allover texture and overscale bloom pattern look particularly dramatic in such a small space.

## KEEP IT *consistent*

When Amanda and her husband, Michael, bought the house, the kitchen had been updated but in a minimal aesthetic. To make it their own, Amanda installed additional glass-front cabinetry to display her collection of serveware and replaced the hardware and faucet with brushed-gold alternatives.



A patterned Roman shade, the cane stools, and statement art infuse the kitchen with Amanda’s signature style.

## OPT *for* COMFORT

“A round dining table is such an easy place to be,” Amanda says. “Everyone can face each other, which encourages conversation around the whole table, rather than only with those to either side of you.” When she entertains she expands the table with a round topper she bought online and covers it with a tablecloth. Comfortable dining chairs are also a must. Blue-and-white marbled lamps and a large, colorful painting enliven the quiet surroundings.





## don't forget the CEILING

In her son's bedroom, bold wallpaper on the ceiling contrasts white walls. "The wide stripe gives it a happy component," Amanda says, and is in keeping with her love of dramatic ceilings. The woven bed frame recalls the grass cloth downstairs.

## FOCAL POINT fabrics

"In any scheme, I like to have a main-event item that inspires the rest of the scheme. It could be a fabric, rug, or artwork, for example," Amanda says. In her and Michael's bedroom, the floral fabric on the bed frame drove her choice of the green crosshatch for the curtains and dense pink-and-white dot on the bench.

## PRETTY practicality

Although the laundry-mudroom is, by nature, all about function, its visibility from the main living spaces dictates that it also needs to look great. Mirrored fronts on a wall of black cabinetry fool the eye into thinking the space is larger than it is. More grass cloth, this time in a black-and-white botanical pattern, softens any utilitarian hard edges and adds movement. Amanda loves the crispness of the high-contrast scheme. "I'd choose black and white over gray any day." ■



DURABLE HIGH-  
GLOSS PAINT  
ON THE CABINETS  
STANDS UP TO BUMPS  
AND SCUFFS.