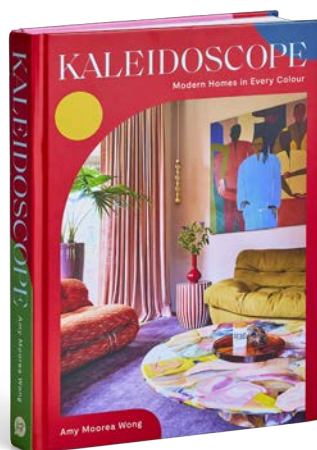
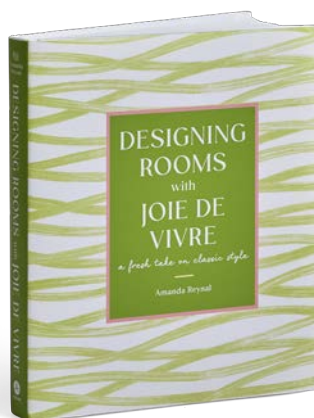


# Reading the Room

Poring over eight of  
the best new decorating books,  
we found these 16 great  
ideas we're excited to steal  
(and share with you).

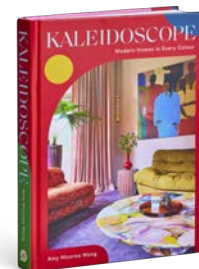






"FOR ME, INTERIORS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT SELF-EXPRESSION AND CREATIVITY—THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE OFFERING A BLANK CANVAS, A CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING INTERESTING AND REFLECT WHO WE ARE."

AMY MOOREA WONG, author



## Compilation of Color **KALEIDOSCOPE**

Interior design  
journalist and consultant  
Amy Moorea Wong  
showcases 20 homes  
to demonstrate  
how to add color in a  
way that's sophisticated  
yet accessible.

### 1 **VARY SHADES OF COLOR**

Mixing darker and lighter shades of the same color family unites a room without looking too matchy. It lets you introduce a fun color like purple without it being overwhelming. In this room designed by Nicole Dohmen, the pale pink table feels like a neutral that anchors the space.

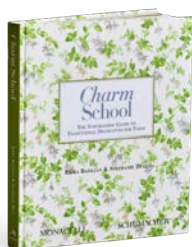
### 2 **BALANCE LINES AND CURVES**

A room with all angles can be too rigid, while nothing but rounded shapes can be too soft. The oval table, arched dining chairs, and orbs in the chandelier balance the long lines of the drapes, windows, and ceiling panels.

*Kaleidoscope* by  
Amy Moorea Wong,  
\$50; [hardiegrant.com](http://hardiegrant.com)

**CONTINUED** ➔





Grandmillennial Style

## CHARM SCHOOL

Celebrating the timelessness of traditional styles, this guide from experts at Schumacher, the iconic fabric company founded in 1889, shows you how to make chintz, toile, and needlepoint look totally fresh today.

### 3 LET PATTERN BE THE MAIN EVENT

Wrapping a room in botanical paper doesn't have to overwhelm, especially if the background is neutral and the pattern delicate. It can be cozy and enveloping, as it is *above*, lending old-world chic to this living room by Ashley Whittaker. The solid-color sofas are grounding, as is the light rug; a butterfly design on pillows and the ottoman adds playfulness.

### 4 OR PUT IT IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

In designer Ariel Okin's foyer, *right*, a scallop-edge runner, checkerboard bench seat, and floral lampshades add visual texture and a bit of whimsy to the traditional millwork and striped wallpaper. Natural elements (here, various kinds of rattan and straw) help keep things from getting too formal.

~~~~~  
*Charm School* by Emma Bazilian and Stephanie Diaz, \$55; [phaidon.com](http://phaidon.com)





Colin King left the windows intentionally bare to highlight their architectural details. The view acts almost like framed artwork, so wall art is used sparingly to add personality without grabbing too much attention.



*Moody and Modern*  
**ARRANGING THINGS**

Colin King, stylist, designer, and Beni Rugs artistic director at large, shows how to use color, texture, and scale to put together a knockout room.

5

**COMMIT TO A COLOR**

For his own loft in NYC's Tribeca, King used a palette of beige, cream, and pale wood tones. To get just the right shade, he had a custom color created (this can be done at most hardware or paint stores). Having elements of nearly the same value allowed him to mix curvy and straight shapes and traditional with modern objects—and still have it all feel cohesive.

6

**GET DOWN LOW**

Keeping everything closer to the floor can accomplish several things. It makes a smaller room feel larger and doesn't block windows for maximum light and airiness. It also brings a low-key and relaxed, somewhat slouchy mood, no matter how formal the space.

~~~~~  
*Arranging Things*  
by Colin King, \$50;  
[rizzoliusa.com](http://rizzoliusa.com)



COLIN KING

Design like Dabito: Start with the old. What's the history of this space? What needs to stay and go? Then determine the brand. What's the style you're going for? Last, focus on the new. Develop a plan to make the space more beautiful and functional, and—most important—feel more like you.



## Relaxed Maximalism **OLD BRAND NEW**

All-around decor maestro Dabito uses highly personal anecdotes about how he finds solace in his own creativity to help you unleash yours.

7

### MIX MATERIALS

One of Dabito's strengths is mixing disparate elements to create spaces with big personality. Start with plain pieces (here, the cabinetry), make some medium-impact additions (the deep green island, wood floors, and rattan stools), then add wow moments like the tile and wallpaper.

8

### CREATE DEPTH WITH COLOR

Repeating a rich hue, such as the emerald green here in the foreground (island) and background (backsplash tile), makes the room seem deeper. It also unifies the two elements and makes each swath of color feel less jarring.

~~~~~  
*Old Brand New* by Dabito, \$35; [penguinrandomhouse.com](https://penguinrandomhouse.com)





"CLASSIC PIECES CAN BE ON TREND WITHOUT BEING TRENDY. THE BEST PART IS THAT EVEN IF A CLASSIC WANES IN POPULARITY, IT WILL STILL MINGLE BEAUTIFULLY IN YOUR HOME. WITH A LITTLE IMAGINATION, CREATIVITY, AND AN OPEN MIND, A CLASSIC IS ALWAYS RIGHT."

AMANDA REYNAL, author and interior designer



## Colorful and Classic *DESIGNING ROOMS WITH JOIE DE VIVRE*

Interior designer and decor shop owner Amanda Reynal breaks down the art of mixing elegant and playful.

9

### HIT THE MUTE BUTTON

Using subtle patterns lets you layer without clashing—while having a lot of fun.

Too many small prints can look busy, so mix scale, as here with a large floral on the sofa, a medium geometric in the rug, and a small check on throw pillows.

10

### BE FABULOUSLY PRACTICAL

Don't let the fact that it's an outdoor room throw you. Lots of materials can stand up to the elements.

Look for fabrics made from solution-dyed acrylic (they repel liquids and stains) and rugs that can be hosed off and sun-dried or put in the washing machine.

*Designing Rooms with Joie de Vivre* by Amanda Reynal, \$40; [abramsbooks.com](http://abramsbooks.com)







"DISCOVER A LOVE OF TENSION—A PLAY BETWEEN MASCULINE AND FEMININE, OLD AND NEW, MODERN AND TRADITIONAL. I WANT MY DESIGNS TO FEEL UNEXPECTED BUT ROOTED IN TRADITION."

HEIDI CAILLIER, author and interior designer



## *Elegantly Eclectic* **MEMORIES OF HOME**

Self-taught designer Heidi Caillier illustrates her spirited style and penchant for creating spaces that are timeless and unique.

### **11 NOD TO THE FAMILIAR**

In this bathroom, lilac Moroccan zellige tiles with irregular surfaces and black trim are an update to the retro, all-over-pink-tile bathroom. Tiles on the lower half of the room suggest somewhere far away and out of the ordinary. Wrapping a room in a pattern like this one makes it feel special rather than like an afterthought.

**12  
ADD CHARACTER**  
A classic vanity made from dark-stained wood and contrasting marble, instead of an all-white model, brings gravitas to the space. Similarly, the ornate, unusually shaped mirror is a bit surprising and exciting.

~~~~~  
*Memories of Home*  
by Heidi Caillier, \$60;  
[rizzoliusa.com](http://rizzoliusa.com)







*Designer Roundup*  
**ICONIC  
 HOME**

This celebration of projects, stories, and advice from 50 Black interior designers is curated by June Reese, vice president of Black Interior Designers Inc.

**13**  
**USE THE COUCH  
 AS AN ANCHOR**

Even in a confident color like orange, a giant sectional can have a grounding effect, drawing you in without overpowering. You can then play with solid and patterned accessories for interest, as designer Justina Blakeney did in her living room, *right*. Throw pillows and a printed ottoman supply pattern; the textured rug is another solid but one with dimension.

**14**  
**PLAY WITH SHELVES**

Stack books flat to act as pedestals for objects. Add in favorite keepsakes of varying heights, separating heavier items for balance. Break up horizontal lines with cascading plants.

*Iconic Home*  
 by June Reese, \$50;  
[abramsbooks.com](http://abramsbooks.com)



"EACH DESIGNER IN THE BOOK SHARES THEIR WISDOM AND THE DESIGN PROCESS THEY USE TO PRODUCE BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN USE THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN YOUR OWN HOME TO CREATE SPACES THAT FOSTER WELLNESS."

JUNE REESE, author



*Youthful Modern*  
**RIGHT  
AT HOME**

Bobby Berk, a star of Netflix's *Queer Eye*, helps you find your style. (The secret: It's basically anything that makes you happy.)

**15  
TAKE NOTES  
FROM THE OUTDOORS**

When a window has a view of nature, pull those elements in. Brady Tolbert, creative director at Bobby Berk, uses an assortment of woods in this office. The pale tones of the desk, step stool, and decorative chain are coupled with deep cherry hues in the chair, ceiling, and wall, acting like a color.

**16  
MAKE IT  
PERSONAL**  
Turn the wall itself into an ever-changing inspiration board: Tape up pictures, fabric swatches, dried flowers, or anything else you love. To keep it neat, make an outline on the wall with removable painters tape, add your inspo inside the lines, then remove the tape, and voilà!

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*Right at Home*  
by Bobby Berk,  
\$35; penguin  
randomhouse.com ■



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"SO MUCH OF WHAT I COVER  
IN THIS BOOK REQUIRES  
LITTLE TO NO MONEY BECAUSE,  
LIKE HAPPINESS, GOOD  
DESIGN DOESN'T COME FROM  
MAKING HUGE PURCHASES."

BOBBY BERK,  
author and interior designer

