

HGTV

magazine



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Ever walk into a house and say, "I'd never think to put those colors/patterns/fabrics together in one room, but I love it!"? Denver designer Ramey Caulkins has a houseful of ideas for

MIXING THINGS UP



family room

floral curtains + striped sofa + orange and green

The curtains were the starting point for this room, where Hayden, 7, and Eliza, 5, hang out the most. The rug and striped sofa share the same hues as the curtains (try matching colors, not patterns), and a chartreuse chandelier makes the cut after it's fitted with coffee-color shades.





stairway

Pictures lined the stairs in Ramey's childhood home, so she wanted to re-create the look. "You don't have to measure everything out. Just hang things where they look good to you," she says. On the stairs, Ramey added a hard-wearing wool runner with

a geometric print in the same colors as the house's exterior. "How can anything not go with gray and white?" she says. To prove her point, she added green and coral with a skirted console table that hides candles and other accessories underneath it.

a great mix



table skirt trim

Bijou Stripe in new shrimp greens with camel by Quadrille



geometric carpet

Park Square in white/gray, starkcarpet.com



cream walls

Joa's White by Farrow & Ball

dining room

Ramey used a favorite decorator trick on her floor-to-ceiling curtains. "The stripes are supposed to hang vertically, but we rotated the fabric so they're horizontal instead," she says. "Horizontal stripes are easier to live with in a small room." She pulled the raspberry color from the curtains and covered the walls in grass cloth dyed to match. And where did that green for the chairs come from? It's not totally random: "It's actually the same green that's in the rug," she says. As for the leopard-print seats, "I knew that fabric would wear like iron."

a great mix

red grass cloth walls

Osan Sisal in red by Schumacher



striped curtains

For a similar look, try: Gloria Siena by Fadini Borghi for Pierre Frey



leopard-print seats

Congo Grospoint in beige by Brunswick & Fils



green chairs

Jalepeno Pepper by Benjamin Moore









kitchen

The whole look was created around the blue-gray limestone floors and countertops, which Ramey had sealed to prevent liquid from seeping in. The ceramic tile backsplash has a pale aqua glaze that picks up the color on the wall, and the island is topped with dark walnut to balance out all those cool hues. There's not much wall space, but the little there is got a coat of bluish green. But the real bursts of color come from Hayden's and Eliza's artwork. "I hang their pictures with painter's tape on the cabinets and the fridge," says Ramey. "They get rotated every couple of months. Sometimes it's hard to get them to take one down if they think it's a masterpiece!"

a great mix

limestone counters and floors

French Blue limestone,
annsacks.com



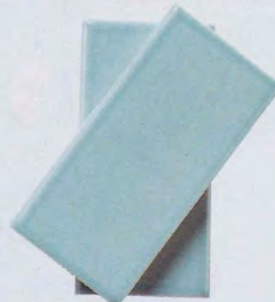
walnut butcher block

For a similar
look, try: Walnut
End Grain Varnique,
johnboos.com



pale aqua backsplash

For a similar
look, try: ASC Elements
Field Tiles in dream,
annsacks.com



blue-green walls

Green Blue by
Farrow & Ball





outside

Ramey and her husband, Max, had been looking for a house with a sense of history, something that reminded Ramey of the Buffalo, NY, home she grew up in. But when plans for a remodel of an older home fell through, they ended up in a brand-new house. To capture the been-there-forever look,

Ramey painted the house charcoal gray and the window frames high-gloss black. "The trim is not white and it's not ivory, it's a color that looks like whipped cream," says Ramey. The red door adds major zing. "It's how I direct people here: 'I'm halfway up the street, the house with the red door!'"



Ramey hangs with Hayden and Eliza.

a great mix



red front door

Blazer by Farrow & Ball



gray siding

Smoke Gray by Benjamin Moore



cream and black trim

White Blush and Black, both by Benjamin Moore

eliza's room

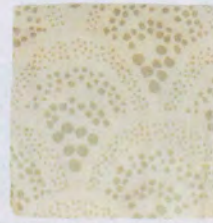
The dresser, which Ramey found at a vintage shop in Florida, got the pink ball rolling. The headboards were a garage sale find that Ramey's mother, an artist, painted with a monkey pattern. Eliza picked out the crisscross quilts herself. They're modern but still kidlike, so they're easy to grow with. The bed skirts have pleats at the corners and are tied with pink ribbon. Ramey painted the pagoda-frame mirror, which belonged to her grandmother, a coral pink. "It's pretty mod-looking," she says. "I love that my grandmother was so cool."

a great mix



crisscross quilts

Pink Diamond quilt,
serenaandlily.com



dotty bed skirts

Chou Chou in heron by
Sister Parish Design



coral mirror frame

Dragon Fruit
by Behr







living room

"I found the rug on a trip to Los Angeles, stored it in the garage for more than a year, then decorated the room around my memory of what it looked like," says Ramey. "Luckily, when we unrolled the carpet, it was just as I remembered!" The wall color and carpet share the same brown hue, but Ramey restricted the rusty red, another shade in the rug, to just a lampshade. "I needed one pop to tie it all together," she says. She lightened up the room with a soft blue velvet sofa. The floral club chairs round out the combo since they echo the blue and brown tones too.

a great mix

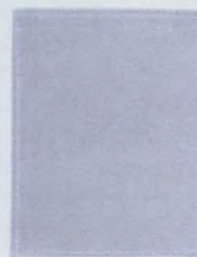
trellis curtains

Imperial Trellis
in natural/coffee by
Kelly Wearstler-
House of KWID for
Schumacher



velvet sofa

Madison Velvet in sky
by Victoria Hagan
Home Collection



floral chairs

For a similar look,
try: Lily Tree in
mocha by Madeaux
by Richard Smith



taupe walls

Mouse's Back by
Farrow & Ball

