

BENJAMIN MOORE & CO.

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Delivering the Essence of Color & Design

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Southern Comfort
Living (and Eating) in Eco-Luxury
Home is Where the Color Is
HAUTE COUTURE

A photograph of a game room. On the left is a pool table with a green felt top and a wooden frame. A telescope on a tripod stands near the pool table. In the center is a foosball table. On the right is a fireplace with a wooden mantel holding a clock and other decorative items. Two boys are playing foosball. The room has wood-paneled walls, a tiled floor, and large windows on the left. The text 'Home is Where the Color Is' is overlaid in the center.

Home is Where the Color Is

An all-white home is transformed into one filled with bright, saturated colors that invite fun to come in and stay for a while.

Photography by Greg Powers

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It's not every client who gives a designer carte blanche to choose a daring color palette. But as Debbie Wiener of Designing Solutions found, her new client in Bethesda, Md., didn't have time to debate or visualize colors. "When she first called, she told me she had painters coming in two days and didn't know what colors to pick, and the interior was all white," says Wiener. "Talk about pressure!"

Shortly after meeting the client, Wiener says they felt like "kindred spirits." They each had two young sons and one or two dogs, resulting in a very active home. Their top priority was to take advantage of the large space and make it comfortable for the kids and their friends, so Wiener proposed a bold color palette to complement the family's energy.





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Framing the Scene Inside and Out

Wiener used green as a jumping-off point because of the abundance of windows and views to the lush, tree-filled backyard. “Nothing brings your eye straight through a room and into the backyard like green does,” says Wiener. She selected Jalepeno Pepper 2147-30, one of her favorite greens from Benjamin Moore & Co.

From there, Wiener selected gold, chocolate and red hues – Concord Ivory HC-12, Whitall Brown HC-69 and Terra Cotta Tile 2090-30 – to round out the palette. Because of the open floor plan and many angular walls and recesses, Wiener carefully planned how each room would look in relationship to the next. “I used each doorway as a picture frame for the next room.”

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Making it Durable

This home was meant to be lived in, as even the formal dining room had been transformed into a play space with an indoor basketball hoop and a rock-climbing wall. With that, Wiener knew the finishes had to be durable enough to withstand this family's level of energy.

"I'm a fan of Benjamin Moore® quality," Wiener says. "When I'm suggesting something to my client and my reputation is on the line, I don't want to sacrifice on quality." She chose Aura® paints for the home for durability. Their Color Lock® technology ensures that the color pigment does not rub off, even with repeat washing of the matte finish. "I don't want a client calling me in two months saying the paint has scrubbed off," Wiener says, adding that she always uses Aura® now because she can choose the matte finish while still ensuring durability.



Benjamin Moore® Colors in the Bethesda, Md., Home

- Jalepeno Pepper 2147-30
- Concord Ivory HC-12
- Whitall Brown HC-69
- Terra Cotta Tile 2090-30

Keeping it Slobproof!

As another line of defense against wear and tear on the home, Wiener incorporated dining room chairs, chaises, armchairs and ottomans from her own line, Slobproof!™ furniture. Her personal experience led her to team up with Crypton® fabrics and a father-daughter furniture building team in North Carolina to create a new line of tough, yet stylized furniture.

Attention to these durable details and livening up a formerly all-white home created a warm environment that finally matched the family's lifestyle. "You can sense a lot of happiness and a lot of love between these parents and their boys," says Wiener. "That's what makes a home, and there was no sacrificing comfort or style."

Visit Designing Solutions at www.mydesigningsolutions.com.



Slobproof!™ Furniture

Simple and sized for city living or sprawling suburbs, Debbie Wiener developed Slobproof!™ furniture using Crypton® fabrics, specially engineered with a moisture-proof barrier that keeps the furniture looking new even with the dirt and grime of everyday living. Clean, green and made in the United States, Slobproof!™ comes with a lifetime warranty on the frame and seat cushions and a five-year warranty on the fabric.

Visit Slobproof!™ furniture at www.slobproof.com.