



Two strong colors—yellow and red—play off each other in Jeannie Fraise's home. In the living room, yellow is the backdrop and red the accent. Touches of black ground the bold colors.

# Color Play

With bright hues, a classic Victorian house goes from pretty to dramatic.

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“Color sets the stage for a room. It adds drama and character.” JEANNIE FRAISE

Jeannie Fraise thinks bold. Having started her career as an artist absolutely in love with color, it's no surprise Jeannie steered clear of white walls when decorating the San Francisco home she shares with her husband, Christophe.

Jeannie, who owns a home accessories store, Lotus Bleu, only had to look at what she'd been collecting for years to find inspiration. The house is filled with all things crimson, including Chinese art and Vietnamese fabrics. “Red just seems like the most lively color to me,” says the designer. Yet with paint and upholstery, she struck a balance between lively and livable.

Black and gray furnishings calm the family room (above), a favorite space of the Fraises. Trays transform the ottomans into functional coffee tables. The slipper chair (left) plays off the red walls and white window trim.





Each of Jeannie's Asian accessories (this photo) and framed photographs (below) stands out against the red walls yet they are united. Semigloss paint gives the walls a lacquered look.

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Restraint and repetition helped her achieve that balance. "I used bright colors, but I didn't use too many," she says. Before throwing color on the wall, she likes to experiment. Jeannie starts with at least two color samples. She paints them on poster boards or directly on the walls in a few places, then observes how they look at different times of the day and in different light. "Sometimes I do two or three rounds of this process to get it right," Jeannie says. For lighter colors she applies two coats of paint; with darker colors she starts with a tinted primer for better coverage.

Choosing a stunning red as the common thread, Jeannie then paired it with yellow, a vivid partner. "The key is to mix it up a bit and play colors off one another, rather than having them compete," says Jeannie, who used black to ground the strong hues. >> on 28



Jeannie shifted the focus from bold red in the family room and kitchen to golden yellow in the dining room. The softer color warms the light-challenged space.

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For visual flow between rooms, Jeannie let one color dominate in one space then switched the scheme in the next. In the living room, walls wear yellow, and red plays a secondary role in the furnishings. The roles reverse in the family room and kitchen, where red walls star and yellow appears in the golden tones of the wood cabinets. Fabrics tie furnishings together throughout the home. Though Jeannie combined three patterns in

many rooms, each one is within her color scheme. "Color sets the stage for a room. It adds drama and character," says Jeannie. "If you're timid about using color, choose an interesting wall color and pair it with key larger pieces like a sofa or rug in neutral tones. Bring the bold color back in with accessories such as pillows. Paint and accessories are the least expensive and the easiest to change or adapt." >> on 30





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## IN THE FLOW

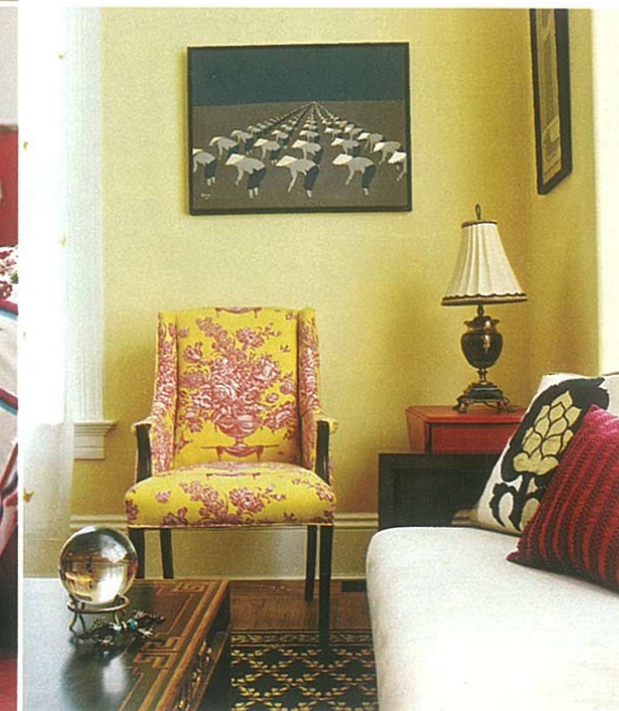
Jeannie finesse her palette to achieve different looks but keeps the flow from room to room. Here's how.

**Dining room:** Golden yellow walls in the dining room (*left*) are a shift from the pale yellow of the entryway. "I like to subtly switch wall colors for contrast, and in this case for warmth," Jeannie says. "Even if you're doing neutrals, you can vary things by using a soft beige or a greenish beige."

**Bedroom:** "For calming sleeping spaces, you need a softer palette," Jeannie says. In the master bedroom (*below left*), walls are beige, red turns a pinkish tint, blue replaces yellow for a surprise accent, and chocolate brown is the new black.

**Living room:** In the living room (*below*), toile fabric sets a traditional tone, yet its lively colors hint at things to come. "I used color more formally at the front of the house and more casually at the back of the house," Jeannie says. 🏡

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## RESOURCES

Interior design—Jeannie Fraise, Lotus Bleu Art & Interior Design, 327 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94102; 415/861-2700; [lotusbleudesign.com](http://lotusbleudesign.com). Chinese sofa in living room—Bei Mo Dian; 888/625-1828; [beimodan.com](http://beimodan.com). Living room pillows—Jonathan Adler; 877/287-1910; [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com). Living room curtains, custom embroidered—Pottery Barn; 888/779-5176; [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com). Family room sofa—Partridge Associates; 415/431-1896. Photo frames in stairwell—Bed Bath and Beyond; 800/462-3966; [bedbathandbeyond.com](http://bedbathandbeyond.com) (product line varies). Hardware for photo frames—Cole Hardware; 415/647-8700. Red lanterns on dining room mantel—Past Perfect; 415/929-7651. Bedding and pillows—Lotus Bleu Art & Interior Design. All other items—antique, discontinued, or personal belonging.