



*Coloring*

Outside the Lines



It all started with a painting. Considering the Whites are great collectors of art, the beginning is quite fitting. The Whites met designer, David Fuller, at a former shop of his. They went in looking for a few items and walked away with two pieces of art; a painting and a budding friendship. Mrs. White says of the meeting, “About six years ago I bought a painting, which we still love and have. He [David] brought his crew out, two men and a ladder, and hung that [painting] for me way up high. Then he started repositioning things in my house. Oh, it looked so much better. I just thought, ‘He knows what he’s doing.’ The rest is history.

The Whites bought their Barton Creek home a couple of years ago with David in mind. “This house, when they moved in was all taupe. All the furniture was taupe.

Photography by Tre Dunham

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Interior design by David Fuller, Alyson Jon Interiors



Everything was stainless steel," David says. "You couldn't see anything as you walked in because your eyes passed over everything and it all disappeared." The Whites knew David could turn the taupe house into a place they would want to live. "The house was on the market for over a year", says David. "It was simply because the interior space pushed you a way. It wasn't inviting. Fortunately, they [the Whites] had the vision to realize the floor plan and construction were of great value and that the aesthetics could be taken care of."

A home full of color, movement, and life; a home important to them as a couple as well as to their children and grandchildren, is just what the Whites wanted. "I remembered the colors he had in his store on the walls," says Mrs. White. "I thought, 'Maybe he can give us color.'" It also needed to showcase the White's collection of paintings and glass artwork. "The house had to have personality," says David. "They don't want people to walk by the rooms. They want them to participate in the rooms. They realize they are collectors of art, but they want their art to invite you."

A contemporary painting by Marks, famous for his impasto glazes, hangs in the foyer welcoming you into their home. "We want you to feel when you walk in a sense of the art to the house itself," says David. In the vibrant abstract painting, Mrs. White sees the reflection of foliage in a pond. She pulls a picture from the drawer in the Italian credenza below. It is of her grandchildren playing in inner tubes in a pond with the foliage reflected in the water around them. Every corner of the house had to be a reflection of their life.

The foyer opens to the formal dining room, with walls of a cinnamon Venetian plaster carefully shaded by Amber Thompson with gold, orange, and amber. A table and credenza from Italy built in the old style of traditional Italian design and farmed from wood possibly 200 years old, give the room a historic air. A wood tile from St. Petersburg inlaid into the center of the dining table made by an Italian craftsman, adds to the feeling of antiquity. Thomas O'Brien dining chairs,





Bright walls, an intriguing painting, and two glass pieces displayed on an Italian interest piece appropriately invite you into the residence.

**Facing page above** Mixing high contemporary with 16th-century design, David takes a risk in doing the formal dining room in all one color.

**Facing page below** Contrasting and mixing warm tones of the living room and a cool aqua, the informal dining room provides a comfortable gathering place with banquette seating.

**Opening spread** A color scheme of chartreuse and cinnamon draw the colors from a Lorraine Jordan painting resting above the mantel.



covered in velvet Lee Jofa fabric, add a contemporary edge and, with the addition of a new texture, movement to the room. A gold-amber reverse glass, semi-spherical chandelier by Ulla Darni, made of free-blown, hand-painted glass hangs over the dining table bringing out the warm colors and adding soft light.

In the living room a groin vault was created to draw the eye up. Bookcases David took from Mr. White's office sit in front of closed alcoves. David says, "We did not want the built-in look in the living room. Furniture has much more of a richness and texture." The inspiration for the room is a colorful landscape painting by Lorraine Jordan that hangs above the fireplace. With a cinnamon and chartreuse color scheme, "All houses must have humor," David says, which is what he loves about the color combination. "You tell

**Above left** Intended to be a shared room, Mr. White took ownership of the study's all wood walls, black leather-topped desk, recessed red coffered ceiling, and Lee Jofa window coverings with a 1920s bird and tree motif.

**Above right** Mirrored side tables reflect the cool aqua of the room and its soft prints. Mrs. White took a chance on the tables, but they work perfectly in the room, which she adores.

**Facing page above** The embroidered silk headboard of the bed was conceived by David and Mrs. White holding a piece of paper against the wall and drawing the desired shape.

**Facing page right** The warm tones of the sitting area are framed by large windows inviting the outdoors in.

a client you are going to do chartreuse with copper welting over cinnamon ultra suede [sofas], most people would go, 'Oh geez, I don't know if I can do that', but she said yes. It was an immediate yes. It was the variety of color."

As if walking into a gallery, a mirrored hallway leads to the master bedroom. The couple's first Lau Chun welcomes from the wall as the room is entered. Original copper draperies were redesigned to frame the artful outdoors, while not obstructing the view. One of David's and Mrs. White's favorite parts of the house is the sitting sanctuary of a sofa done in comforting burgundy and copper Highland Court fabric and two sitting chairs. It is a great spot to watch all types of wildlife. To bring the large room together, David drew inspiration from a rug of burgundy, gold, and coral tones.

The family room proved the most difficult for David to design. "I readily did all the rooms of the house. I pulled all the fabrics, the paints, did all the drawings of all the room placements, and selected the different tables and such. But the family room posed a problem," he says. "The two leather chairs and ottomans were from their former house, both were comfortable in them. I knew as a couple they would watch TV or their family would gather in the room. I wanted them [the chairs] to be the center of the room, focused towards a direction. It took me a while to get my feelings of how I could provide comfort and aesthetic value together. Then, part of me just threw it up in the air and said, 'This is a



gathering of my family. It is going to look great no matter what because my family is in there.' So, I put my two chairs where thought they should be and everything else just went around it."

Mr. White, determined to add a personal touch to the room where his loved ones gather, harvested a mesquite tree from their ranch to carve into a mantel. He spent all summer perfecting his masterpiece, which adds a warm natural element and movement to the aqua space.

Mrs. White loves that she feels different in every room, and David new she would. "It is hard to communicate the feelings you have for a client and their environment," says David. "It is hard to say to someone else you were able to understand them. The Whites are in no way camouflaged in their thoughts, they express themselves very deeply." As collectors and admirers of art in many expressions, the Whites found someone who could accurately capture them in the rich color and movement of the masterpiece they call home. TH&L

