

## HABITAT



### TOBIE FAIRLEY

■ **WITH A KNACK FOR MAKING** big statements with timeless, tailored flair, designer Tobie Fairley isn't one to shy away from bold hues. In this bedroom created for the Hampton Designer Showhouse, her intent was to "really amp up the color"—to grab attention and provide out-of-the-box ideas—like this impossible-to-miss ceiling.



LITVAK/SHOOTING STAR PHOTOGRAPHY

#### TOBIE'S TIP

##### FIRST THINGS FIRST

In my projects, I select the fabrics and furnishings to get the color story going before selecting paint for the walls. I find it easier to introduce a lot of color if you start with a neutral space and add the color through pillows, lamps and artwork.

##### RULE OF THREES

Using different patterns, like florals paired with geometrics, is a great way to add visual interest to a space, but you should stop at three. I feel the same way about color—one shade should be dominant, with the others playing a supporting role.

##### FEAR NOT

A colorful palette can still read calm. Spa colors, like blues and greens, for example, can be very restful. Even a pop of hot pink in a pillow or ottoman won't disturb the overall serenity of a space.

##### CARRY ON

If you can see from one room into another, there should be something that ties the two together. That doesn't mean that every room has to have the same color scheme, though. Try carrying through a secondary color—the pattern of a rug or the metal in the light fixtures.

##### MADE-IN-THE-SHADE DUOS

Right now, I'm loving navy paired with either sea green or coral, beige with lavender or orange with pink. You want to juxtapose hot and cool colors, energetic and serene.



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PHOTO-COURTESY OF ALLEN SMITH

### P. ALLEN SMITH

■ **P. ALLEN SMITH'S COTTAGE** at Moss Mountain Farm is check-full of clever ideas for maximizing style and space on a budget. To create the illusion of airiness in the entry hall, Smith used the same wall color in the entry as in the adjoining living room, then layered on color and texture to bring in brightness and personality. "Color is a great tool for creating illusion," he says.

#### ALLEN'S TIP

##### STRONG START

I find it helpful to work from a single favorite piece of fabric, or a piece of art that brings all of the colors you like into play for a particular room. Building a space and its color theme around the things that bring you joy is a good approach.

##### FIX IT UP

All the rules can be broken if you can strike a balance in the overall composition. I like surprise in this entry hall. I used an Albert and Dash rug from Cobblestone and

Vine from there. I used deep-coral chairs from Paul Michael Company and painted an early 19th-century plantation desk a easy blue.

##### MOODY HUES

I suggest choosing wall and trim colors that you can live with for years. For a bedroom, for instance, I prefer calm, restful colors—nothing bold or jarring. You can use fabrics and furnishings to amplify the color theme.

##### TRUE BLUE

Indigo is hot this year—but a color that can work with so many other



colors and combos. For a warm, no-fail combo, I love peachy-orange tones with chartreuse and a hit of hot pink.

##### SHOWNE POINTS

Don't forget about the color brown. In its myriad of tones, it's a great neutral. It can really ground a room, and it "plays well" with other colors.

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