



SCENIC SEITTER

LIGHTEN THE MOOD IN THE HOME WITH SUMMER SPLASHES

BY CHRIS BYNUM

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Nights get longer, music gets louder, water gets warmer, drinks get colder. Life gets better in summer, and the living gets easier in the Big Easy – and beyond. You’ve done the spring cleaning, planted the garden, and now your attention turns to lightening up the house. It’s time to reboot – and decorate!

“I love to pull in nice, crisp and refreshing colors for summer,” says Susan Currie, a New Orleans and Atlanta interior designer whose use of bold, vibrant color is her trademark. “I start with subtle shades of neutral hues as a backdrop. I identify the color that a client is most attracted to and then introduce pops of that color through artwork and accessories to create focal points in a room.” Vibrant colors like yellow, red, green, orange and blue are back, she says, after a few seasons of soft neutrals.

Wallpaper is also in and trendy. “Wallpaper is back and so fun. There’s so much you can do with one accent wall, or papering all the walls in a powder room.” Currie suggests Thibaut, Wallquest and Sanderson, which are available at local stores and specialty shops.

Here are some of Currie’s other ideas and product choices to freshen up a home for summer:

Make a room more peaceful with fewer pieces – “edit things” and reorganize placement of furniture and accessories. Repainting a room alone can add to freshness. Go green with a low VOC paint (volatile organic compounds) that works well with white. Or simply paint a piece of furniture such as a cocktail table in a vibrant color as a focal point.

Currie also suggests Sherwin Williams and its mobile app ColorSnap Visualizer for iPhones and Androids as a tool

to help you find the right color.

Bookcases: Rearrange books and accessories (less is more), and consider covering some books with white craft paper that can be found at most craft stores to brighten up an otherwise traditional bookish look.

Pillows are an easy and relatively inexpensive way to make a room pop with color. They are everywhere – Katie Koch Home, The Shops at 2011 (Magazine Street, uptown), West Elm and Pier 1.

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